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GCC Meetings, Contacts With Velayati Reported

PM0210102090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Oct 90 p 1

[Report by Khalil Matar: "Observations on Meeting between GCC Ministers and Velayati; Iran to Participate in Long-Term Security Plan for the Gulf"]

[Text] New York, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT— The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers yesterday evening surprised political observers with three developments and observations. The first is that they are moving collectively with distinguished ministers attending the sessions and deliberations of the UN General Assembly. They have met jointly with the U.S. secretary of state, the Soviet foreign minister, and then the Iranian foreign minister, confirming the belief that the Gulf states are inclined to pursue a firmer policy of cooperation among them and to proceed with an actual policy of unification, to the point of molding it into a single unified view of attitudes.

The second observation is that for the first time a significant meeting has taken place between Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and representatives of the six Arab states—the first meeting of its kind since the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war.

Although the meeting was preceded by extensive secret contacts in which friendly parties were involved, the fact that it took place as it did was itself a surprise.

The third observation is that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met at the same table, leaving a positive impression on the other ministers and accompanying members of the delegations.

Informed diplomatic sources who have spoken to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from New York said that the meeting was very good and that it broached the current situation in the region. They confirmed agreement between the two sides that priority must be given to the Iraqi forces' immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate government there.

The meeting between the GCC ministers and Velayati was supposed to have taken place over a lunch hosted by Velayati on 28 September, but was postponed until 29 September when the Iranian foreign minister had the Gulf ministers for Iranian tea at the delegation's headquarters in New York.

The Iranian official spokesman said that the ministers reaffirmed the need for the withdrawal and that they agreed to continue to cooperate in this connection. The ministers also decided to continue their discussions with a view to finding a long-term solution to establishing security in the Gulf region. The implications of such a long-term solution are not known, but it constitutes an important step in the cooperation process among the region's states.

The Iranian foreign minister said after the meeting: Now that the question of regional security has been raised, we will continue our consultations and contacts and we hope that in the future we will have a secure region.

As one informed source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the important thing is that by meeting with the six ministers as a group, Iran has confirmed its undeclared recognition of the GCC, which it opposed for some time.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the meeting included an exchange of views and references to certain past attitudes, but the ministers agreed to transcend this in order to draw up a new concept of Iranian-GCC joint cooperation.

It is believed that contacts will continue at various levels. GCC Secretary-General 'Abdallah Bisharah has been entrusted with the task of preparing some concepts for the future with the emphasis on strong long-term relations between neighbors.

Islamic Affairs

Pakistan's Yaqub Khan Addresses ICO Meeting

BK0210161190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that New Delhi has failed to crush the Kashmiri people's indigenous struggle against Indian occupation despite its large-scale use of force. Addressing the annual coordination meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] in New York, he said the people of occupied Kashmir are now engaged in a determined struggle to achieve their right to self-determination. He urged the ICO to pressure India to stop repression and atrocities against the Kashmiri people.

The foreign minister said India should be persuaded to pull back its troops to peacetime positions so as to lessen tension between India and Pakistan.

Sahabzad Yaqub Khan totally rejected Indian allegations about Pakistani interference in occupied Kashmir, saying that India has rejected a Pakistani proposal to appoint neutral international observers to investigate such accusations because such a mechanism will expose Indian claims.

Referring to the deteriorating Gulf situation, the foreign minister stressed the need for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and restoration of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of that state.

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Warned Against Intercepting Iraqi Planes

JN0310152790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—The Central Committee of the Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has warned the U.S.

Administration, its agents, and its tools against any reckless act and about the consequences of intercepting Iraqi civilian aircraft and endangering the lives of passengers.

In a statement here today, an ALF spokesman declared that the front would not sit with folded hands if such actions were committed. He added that the ALF would react firmly and immediately and with painful strikes that would confirm to the U.S. Administration its ability to inflict grave losses.

In his statement, the spokesman said that U.S. interests and aircraft in the Arab homeland and the world would not be remote targets for our revolutionaries. He added that they would be exposed to real dangers on the basis of reciprocity. He went on to say that this would be a battle that would turn the entire globe into the arena. This would show the Americans what type of adversaries they were facing and how capable their ability to end American aggression and arrogance, the spokesman stated.

The spokesman condemned the arbitrary measures the Qatari and United Arab Emirates [UAE] Governments as well as Fahd and Husni were taking against the sons of our Palestinian people working and residing in these Arab states. This, he said, was an attempt to take revenge on them for their nationalist and pan-Arab positions on what is called the Gulf crisis.

The ALF spokesman declared that the ALF and Palestinian revolution factions will do their best to curb these unjustified transgressions and end the oppressive and immoral practices of the governments that are agents of imperialists and Zionists. He stated that the Palestinian arm will never be too short to reach all traitors and agents wherever they are.

Jerusalem Grenade Attack Called 'Salute' to Iraq

JN0410065390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Excerpts] In the occupied territory, a strong wave of violence in the past few days has led to five dead and several wounded among Palestinians. Moreover, a bomb incident in East Jerusalem yesterday injured five Palestinians and two Israeli policemen. [passage omitted]

In Amman, the al-Qassam Forces group [not further identified] declared its responsibility for the Jerusalem bomb, saying it was a salute to the intifadah and Iraq. [passage omitted]

PLO Statement on Thatcher Support for Israel

LD0310205990 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] An official Palestinian spokesman today made the following statement:

The statements of British Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher contained in her recent interview, which was broadcast by the international media on 30 September, the dimensions of the conspiracy against the Palestinian people and its leadership—the PLO. She also stressed her insistence on protecting Israeli occupation and crimes, to deprive the Palestinian people of their self-determination and their right to sovereignty and independence; and her insistence on [upholding] the plots of annexation and continuation of the occupation.

We draw the attention of all the sincere people of our Arab nation to these serious statements so that they may be aware of the dimensions of the conspiracy, the fabric of which is interwoven by international parties around the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights, which have been approved by international legitimacy and the resolutions of the United Nations which the international community have acknowledged with a large majority.

Let the British prime minister be told that the Palestinian people will continue their jihad, together with all the sincere people of our Arab nation and the free and upright men in the world, until the Palestinian people realize their aims of freedom and independence. The fate of this conspiracy which has been revealed by the prime minister in her statements is doomed to utter failure in the face of the inflexible will and struggle of the Palestinian people.

Our people know how to face the conspiracy as they face all other conspiracies.

Yasir 'Arafat Receives Soviet Envoy in Tunis

LD0310204290 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] The brother commander, President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received the Soviet ambassador in Tunis. During the meeting a discussion took place on the latest crucial developments in the area, especially the developments in the grave situation in the Gulf area.

The brother commander, President Abu 'Ammar, previously sent an important message to the Soviet leadership concerning the Gulf crisis and Palestinian and Arab efforts to solve it politically by themselves.

Comparison to Intifadah Leadership Call No. 62

JN0310211090

Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic at 1945 GMT on 3 October carries call No. 62 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah. The Baghdad Voice of the PLO version has been compared with the Sanaa Voice of Palestine version published in the 3 October Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pp 1-3, revealing the following variations:

Page one, column two, paragraph two, penultimate sentence reads: ...UNLI also condemns the dual position of the... (rewording)

Page two, column one, paragraph three, sentence three reads: ...entering these areas; masks must not be used in them; slogans must... (rewording)

Page two, column one, paragraph five, last sentence reads: ...side practicing terrorism, anyone trying to impose tributes, as falsely happened in the name of the UNLI in the industrial region of Bayt Jala, and at those who vandalize residents' properties and vehicles of international organizations, such as the [United Nations Relief and Works] Agency and the Red Cross. [new paragraph] (supplying additional material)

Page two, column two, paragraph four, last sentence reads: ...and going outdoors. [new paragraph] Meanwhile, while extending greetings of pride and respect for our strike forces and militant heroes, the UNLI calls on them to carry out the following activities: [new paragraph] 1. This month shall be considered the month of the Palestinian flag in which flags will be hoisted everywhere, painted on walls... (clearing indistinct passage and rewording)

Page two, column two, paragraph six, last sentence reads: ...through coordination with Hamas fighters. [new paragraph] 3. Thursday, 4 October, shall be considered a day for solidarity with the children of Iraq and the displaced children of al-Burayj. On this day, women will stage marches and protest sit-ins. [new paragraph] 4. Saturday, 6 October, and Thursday, 11 October, shall be considered days for distinguished escalation as a demonstration of solidarity with the residents of al-Burayj [camp] and on the anniversary... (clearing indistinct passages and rewording)

Page two, column two, last paragraph, last sentence reads: ...them to yield. (deleting editorial notation)

Page three, column two, last paragraph, last sentence reads: ...will grow up. [new paragraph] Signed: The PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah. (supplying additional material)

Algeria

National Assembly Speaker Submits Resignation

LD0310173990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Rabah Bitat, speaker of the National People's Assembly, submitted today, during the opening meeting of the fall session, his resignation as Assembly speaker and will stay on as an ordinary deputy. Following this announcement, the session was adjourned so that the Assembly bureau would hold a meeting to study the situation resulting from the resignation.

President Chadli Bendjedid received at the headquarters of the presidency of the Republic this morning the speaker of the National People's Assembly, its deputies, and the heads of the permanent committees of the assembly.

Bendjedid Meets Assembly Leaders, Yemeni Minister

LD0410022290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received the bureau of the National People's Assembly, which consisted of the speaker and his deputies, and the chairmen of the permanent committees. National and other international questions concerning the Gulf events were discussed.

Abdelaziz Bilkhadem, the deputy speaker, spoke after he left the meeting:

[Begin Bilkhadem recording] (?We raised) the coming legislative session and the endeavor to (?pass) the laws which allow all the political forces [words indistinct] to ease the burden of the citizen, especially in facing up to the fall in purchasing power, and to try and find living accommodation for young people.

The fourth point [as heard] was the relationship of the Assembly with the government and the leading bodies. The conversation was long with regard to this relationship, which must serve the higher interest of the homeland. There was also a conversation about partisan (?matters) [words indistinct].

We also talked about the [word indistinct] the elections. We also discussed foreign policy and the Algerian initiatives, first to stop bloodshed, and the Algerian initiative against the action to starve the Iraqi people and to work for ridding the foreigner from the Arab areas.

These are the five points which took two and a half hours of our meeting with the president of the Republic. [end recording]

The president of the Republic also received members of the parliamentary group of the Maghreb Consultative Council. The chairman of the Algerian group, Makhloufi Abdelrahman, said after the meeting: We were honored by our meeting with the president of the Republic. We submitted to him a review of the activity of the Algerian parliamentary group in the consultative council. His excellency gave his directives to the group concerning the work of the consultative council in his capacity as chairman of the Presidential Council of the Arab Maghreb Union.

The meeting with the president of the Republic has more than one meaning. It coincides with the opening of the autumn term of the National People's Assembly. This deepens the popular dimension and the interest shown by the president of the Republic in this aspect, and this is why he meets with the representatives of the people, as today.

President Chadli Bendjedid also received today the Yemeni minister of electricity and water, who delivered a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Receives Party Leaders

LD0310122390 Algiers APS in English 1004 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Algiers, 3/10/90 (APS)—Following his audience by President Chadli Bendjedid, the first secretary of the Socialist Vanguard Party (PAGS), Sadek Hadjres said the talks centered on the forthcoming elections, the Gulf crisis and some important problems concerning the labor world. We have discussed the deterioration of the purchasing power of the [words indistinct], unemployment and the reduction of staff.

Concerning the ongoing reforms, Hadjres underlined the necessity to undertake profound economic reforms likely to assure social justice. The transition period we are living through will be difficult for the national economy, he said, insisting on the necessary consultation between the concerned sides, namely producers, the public and the private sector for better control of the market for the benefit of the productive economy.

On his turn, the chairman of the National Party for Solidarity and Development, Rabah Bencherif, who was also received by the president of the Republic, said talks centered on a number of national and international questions.

"We have discussed about democracy, which has become an irreversible gain [word indistinct) the institution Algeria has to implement laws", he said. "We also asked the president of the Republic for an amendment of the electoral law", he added.

At the international level, the discussion centered on the situation in the Gulf "which is, Bencherif said, a question that has been invented by Western countries to preserve their interests in the area".

Minister of Economy Cited on Economic Policy

LD0310161290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Algerian Minister of Economy Ghazi Hidouci this morning held a news conference on economic policy and latest developments. Our radio reporter, Rabih Sheibi, who attended the news conference, reports:

[Sheibi] Observers of the world oil market say Algeria's foreign income by the end of the year will range from $2 billion to $3 billion. This will enable Algeria to breath financially and come out from its current choking financial crisis.

Economy Minister Ghazi Houdici said this morning at the news conference he held at the Government Palace, which was attended by national and international press representatives, that the Gulf crisis has affected Algeria's income. But we base our economy on a $26 per barrel rate. This will enable us to secure no more than $800 million, which, according to the minister, will be devoted in the first stage to regaining Algeria's credibility in the international world market through its payment of all loans owed to public establishments and settlement of all pending financial disputes between national and foreign institutions. This is the strategy that will enable us to restore financial credibility to Algeria. All this will be achieved before the end of the current year.

As to the second stage, it will concentrate on expansion of deposits and reserves of the Central Bank. This will provide a guarantee for the Bank of Algiers and for Algeria on the road to fixing one rate for the Algerian dinar and making it negotiable.

In the third stage, the government plans to achieve growth through investment, productivity, and protection of purchasing power.

The minister also spoke on the question of unemployment. He said that the priority in imports will be given to developing small- and medium-size establishments that will ensure the creation of work opportunities. This is in addition to the special funds created for providing employment, such as the youth fund and agricultural fund.

Public opinion is now preoccupied with the question of the market economy which we are aiming to achieve. The minister of economy pointed out that transfer from the planned economy to a market economy was difficult because it is based on the absorption of all loans and shortcomings of the former economic system. The future market, he added, will be based on competition. Some, however, are afraid of this competition, particularly competition that will be imposed by foreign establishments possessing the necessary resources and tools for entering the market. But the minister affirmed that no foreign or private establishment can cause any harm to the national public establishments. This is because these possess all the necessary means, and all that remains is for them to move and operate more actively than before using different methods.

Regarding forthcoming elections, the minister said the important thing was that the majority, believing in reforms and the February 1989 constitution, should win. In this regard, the citizens' say will have the maximum weight in selecting the best programs that serve the interests of the homeland.

Egypt

Further on Visit by Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu

News Conference With Mubarak

NC0310152890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—During a joint news conference given by President Husni Mubarak and Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu in Cairo today, President Mubarak expressed the hope that the Gulf problem will be solved peacefully, and not by war. He stressed the need for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government.

Asked what he hopes for from the meeting which will take place soon between Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Mubarak said: I sincerely hope that Iraq will agree to solve the problem and withdraw from Kuwait and that the legitimate government will be restored. This is also the hope of all countries in the world.

Asked about Jordan's stand, President Mubarak said Jordan is a fraternal Arab state and His Majesty King Husayn is a brother and a friend despite everything that has happened. He expressed the conviction that Jordan will never accept a state's occupation by another state. President Mubarak went on to say that there might be circumstances of which he is unaware. He pointed out that his talks with the Japanese prime minister yesterday touched on ways to assist Jordan because it had actually been hit by the events.

President Mubarak emphasized that he will approve of any initiative that calls for the complete withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy. He noted that Japan is a major state which carries its weight in the civilized world. Japan is also totally committed to the UN Security Council resolutions.

Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu said he will visit Jordan to get acquainted with the conditions of the refugees who left Kuwait and Iraq. He reiterated his country's stand on and commitment to the UN resolutions. Kaifu lauded the relations between Egypt and Japan and their cooperation in various projects.

At the beginning of the news conference, President Mubarak said: I welcome the Japanese prime minister's visit here in Cairo and I would like to express the Egyptian people's welcome of this dear guest, given our longstanding good relations with Japan.

To a question about Japan's aid program to countries affected by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, including Egypt, President Mubarak said: We have discussed all these topics. We have agreed on a good program, and there will be more things in the near future.

Asked about the possibility of settling the Gulf crisis by war or by a military operation, President Mubarak said: I hope that the crisis will not be settled by war because he who knows the extent of the losses of war will stay away from it. We do not want a war, and we need a peaceful solution. But we want Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, which was an independent sovereign state and a member of the Arab League, United Nations, and the Islamic Conference Organization. The Iraqi forces must withdraw from Kuwait, the legitimate government must return to it, and the Kuwaitis must be given the choice to determine whatever they wish, President Mubarak added.

President Mubarak was asked: To what do you want Japan to contribute, and how do you want it to cooperate with the countries affected by the crisis? President Mubarak replied that Japan is one of the big powers with weight and status in the civilized world. It can offer a great deal of assistance to resolve this problem. In addition to financial donations, there are other ways in which Japan can contribute to halt the state of war. We know that Japan fully complies with the Security Council resolutions, which is one of the factors that might help settle the problem without war.

Asked about the anticipated meeting between Kaifu and Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, and his hopes for this meeting, President Mubarak said: I am not a fortune teller, but I hope that Iraq will agree to solve the problem by withdrawing from Kuwait and restoring the legitimate government. This is all I hope for and all that every civilized country in the world hopes for.

Regarding Jordan's stand on the Gulf crisis, President Mubarak said: Jordan is a fraternal Arab country, and His Majesty King Husayn is a brother and friend, despite what has happened. I do not believe that his majesty the king or Jordan can accept one Arab country's occupying another, because this is a serious principle. But there there may be certain circumstances that I do not know that made Jordan's stand unclear.

Responding to a question concerning his position on Japan's giving approximately $100 million in soft loans to Jordan as urgent aid, President Mubarak said: Certainly, I spoke with my brother the Japanese prime minister yesterday on this issue. I completely support aid to Jordan, because it was indeed affected. If there are political differences between Jordan and the international community on this issue, it does not mean that we are opposed to any urgent aid to Jordan, because it was indeed affected by the invasion of Kuwait.

Asked about his assessment of French President Francois Mitterrand's initiative, President Mubarak said: I agree to any overture that provides for complete withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy so that Kuwait may remain a free, independent, and sovereign state. If there is anything else, it can be negotiated between Kuwait and Iraq after the withdrawal and restoration of legitimacy. I have nothing to do with other things.

Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu then made the following statement: I am the first Japanese prime minister to visit this dear country. During my stay here I had the opportunity to talk to President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, and other senior officials. We discussed bilateral relations and issues of common concern, primarily the Gulf crisis. The Japanese Government's principled stand on the Gulf crisis is total abidance by the United Nations and Security Council resolutions, including the need for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait; restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti government in Kuwait; and release of the detainees, or hostages, and giving them the freedom to depart Iraq.

The Japanese prime minister stressed that his country will exert further great efforts to resolve this crisis peacefully. Regarding bilateral relations, the Japanese prime minister said: It is well known that both countries have long been linked by friendly relations and cooperation. It gave me great pleasure that President Mubarak mentioned, for instance, the project of a children's hospital in Egypt and the establishment of the Opera House in Egypt as symbols of the strong relations of cooperation between the two countries. I have received detailed information on the Egyptian plan to refurbish the economic structures in Egypt. I promise you that Japan is prepared to offer aid and support as much as we can to encourage the economic reform program in Egypt.

The Japanese prime minister said: I will leave Cairo for Jordan where I may have the opportunity to acquaint myself with the situation there and with the conditions of the refugees from Kuwait and Iraq. As you know, we are ready to offer medical and other aid. Concluding his statement he said: At any rate, I am very pleased to have visited Egypt and to have had fruitful talks with President Husni Mubarak, whom we consider to be a great personality.

President Mubarak held a session of talks with the Japanese prime minister before the news conference. They resumed their talks at the Presidential Office at a lunch hosted by President Mubarak in honor of the Japanese guest. The lunch was attended by Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister; Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development; and the head of the escort mission that accompanied the Japanese prime minister.

Further on Economic Assistance

OW0310233290 Tokyo KYODO in English 2303 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 3 KYODO—Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi called on Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Wednesday [3 October] to provide more economic assistance to the Middle East region, calling economic development one of three key factors for achieving regional stability.

Besides economic development, the essential ingredients for establishing peace in the region are arms control and arms reduction, and a United Nations-led debate on regional issues, Japanese officials quoted Sidqi as saying.

Sidqi said he hoped that Japan would assist by promoting development.

Sidqi and Kaifu agreed in the 45-minute meeting to seek a peaceful resolution to the Gulf crisis in accord with the UN resolution condemning Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, the officials said.

Kaifu stressed the need to strictly enforce economic sanctions, they said.

On bilateral issues, Sidqi welcomed Japan's offer of 400 million dollars in emergency commodity loans and project aid to alleviate the impact on Egypt of the Gulf crisis.

Egypt says it is suffering huge losses from a 40 percent drop in its tourism receipts of 2.5 billion dollars per year, loss of remittances from over a million Egyptians who had been working in Iraq and Kuwait, and reduced use of the Suez Canal.

Kaifu pledged that Japan will assist Egypt to the best of its ability.

The meeting wrapped up Kaifu's official talks during his two-day state visit to Egypt, the first by a Japanese prime minister.

In talks Tuesday, Kaifu and President Husni Mubarak condemned Iraq and agreed on the need to continue economic sanctions.

Kaifu left for Amman after an informal luncheon hosted by Mubarak.

He was to meet with Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan in Amman and hold separate talks with Jordan's King Husayn on Thursday [4 October] before departing for Ankara on the third leg of a five-nation tour of the region.

Kaifu is to visit Saudi Arabia and Oman before returning to Tokyo on October 9.

Says Palestine Issue Important

OW0410003590 Tokyo KYODO in English 2318 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Report by Jocelyn Ford]

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 3 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Wednesday [3 October] that achieving a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian homeland issue is "more important than before."

He said, however, that the long-standing Arab-Israeli dispute should not be allowed to become tangled up with the Persian Gulf crisis.

"Finding a solution to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is urgent at this time...and the resolution should be distinguished from the Mideast peace problem," Kaifu said in an interview with the semigovernmental AL-AHRAM, Egypt's largest-circulation daily.

He pledged that Japan would play an active role in seeking a comprehensive and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Japan firmly backs the United Nations Resolution 242 demanding that Israel withdraw from land occupied after the 1967 War, Kaifu said in a transcript made available to reporters of his interview with the Arabic-language daily.

In the last week, U.S. President George Bush and French President Francois Mitterrand have suggested that a solution to the Gulf crisis may be followed by initiatives on the Palestinian issue.

Leaves Cairo for Amman

OW0310144090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1423 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, Oct. 3 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu left Cairo for Amman, Jordan, Wednesday on the second leg of a five-nation Middle East tour. [passage omitted]

Most Nationals' Deaths in Iraq From 'Attacks'

JN0410112590 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Oct 90 pp 1, 15

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has received a report from Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Musa on the circumstances of the death of a large number of Egyptians working in Iraq.

The interior minister said that 995 bodies have arrived at Cairo airport since 1 January; they are all males aged between 19 and 44.

He said that medical reexamination conducted on some recently-received bodies bear witness to the fact that 60 percent of them had died as a result of attacks. It was noted, he added, that the medical report with each body states that the cause of death is a fractured skull, a gunshot, calvicular or laryngeal fracture, or electrocution. The reports, it was also noted, fail to explain the causes of the accidents that led to such injuries—which raises suspicion. Death reports before the invasion of Kuwait used to identify the cause of death as varicose esophagus, cirrhosis, or sudden heart attack.

The minister said that President Husni Mubarak asked for a detailed report on the daily arrival of so many Egyptian bodies at the Cairo airport—an average of 140 bodies per month since the invasion of Kuwait. Over the three months that preceded the invasion, the monthly average stood between 30 and 40 bodies.

The interior minister said that the Foreign Ministry intervened and asked for detailed reports on the circumstances of the deaths of Egyptians in Iraq. Egyptians returning from Kuwait are being asked to prlvide whatever information they have on the dead, including the place and cause of death. Other information is being collected from special security sources.

The minister said that the concerned international organizations were informed so as to intervene with Iraq to stop these actions.

Arrested 'Terrorists' Said To Have Iraqi Backing

PM0310113390 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
27 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Fikriyyah Ahmad: "Three Palestinians and Two Iraqis in Possession of Arms Arrested in Alexandria"]

[Excerpt] AL-WAFD has learned that the State Security Investigation in Alexandria has arrested five terrorists—three Palestinians and two Iraqis—inside a rented apartment. They had in their possession unlicensed firearms and a quantity of ammunition and explosives. They failed to justify their acquisition of the arms or reveal the source. It was discovered that they had entered Egypt for tourism a month earlier, and remained in the country after their visas had expired. Informed sources think that they are likely to have been sent on a sabotage mission aimed at world capitals on Iraq's behest. The sources refused to reveal the names of those arrested out of concern for the secrecy of the investigations. Extensive investigations are currently being conducted in complete secrecy to uncover the elements of the mission. [passage omitted]

Paper Cites Interior Minister on Terrorist Cases

NC0410090690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] REUTER reported from Cairo that security authorities there have reported they have arrested Iraqis, Palestinians, and other Arabs who have been sent to Egypt to carry out acts of sabotage or assassination. Egyptian Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Musa was cited as saying that followers of Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu-Nidal, leader of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, were among those arrested, and that weapons and explosives were seized from them.

The magazine AL-MUSAWWAR cited Musa as saying that the matter went beyond threats and that groups have been sent by Abu-Nidal and others. Musa said: It is not a secret that we are now investigating several terrorist cases.

Article Views Approach To Strengthen U.S. Hand

PM0310114390 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
27 Sep 90 p 3

[Article by Ahmad Abu-al-Fath: "The U.S. Forces"]

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is entitled to request aid from any state, hence the United States, to defend its independence. So its request should not be criticized.

But should not the U.S. President have taken steps to convince the Arab peoples that, while mobilizing the world's political, military, and financial forces against the occupation of Kuwait and the threats to Saudi Arabia's and the Gulf states' security, the United States is also using its huge weight against the Israeli Government to enable the world to arrive at just solution to the Palestinian issue?

Most regrettably, President Bush has not done that, but instead, has given Saddam Husayn the opportunity to stir up feelings of pan-Arabism against the United States by linking the situation in Kuwait to a solution to the Palestinian issue and the evacuation of every occupied territory.

President Bush says that what is required before anything else is the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait—then the other issues can be examined!

What examination will take place after that? The Israeli occupation has lasted 23 years and there have been Security Council resolutions since the occupation started. Why have they not been implemented? Why did the United States not mobilize world forces to force Israel to implement them? Why did it leave Israel to build settlements for Israelis on Arab territory? Why did it allow Israel to announce the annexation of East Jerusalem, which contains the holiest Islamic and Christian places? Why the murder of children? Why the destruction of homes? Why the occupation of part of Lebanon? Why the detention of tens of thousands? Why all this? And why the ugliest thing of all, namely the arming of Israel to ensure its supremacy over all the Arab states combined? Moreover, the United States uses its right of veto to prevent the Security Council from condemning Israel.

The defense of Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, and Kuwait's independence is sought by every Arab who is sincere in his Arabism. But the defense of the Palestinians' rights with respect to Israel—and the United States has contributed substantially to obstructing the efforts exerted for that defense—is also sought by every Arab who is sincere in his Arabism.

President Bush has rendered a great service to Saddam Husayn, as he has given him the opportunity to tell the Arabs that he is prepared to back down in return for the realization of Arab hopes; and yet the United States and its president do not accept this!

What would have strengthened the position of the leaders of the Arab states which supported Saudi Arabia: for President Bush to take effective steps to satisfy the Arabs and Arab pride, or for the matter to be left for Saddam Husayn to exploit and use to conceal the disaster of his forces' occupation of an Arab state?

Had President Bush hastened to take effective steps to push Israel to respond to the desire for a just peace, he would have been able to achieve several major objectives:

1—It would have been difficult for any Arab ruler to take Saddam Husayn's side.

2—It would have strengthened feelings among Arabs that U.S. defense of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the Gulf states is actually an action stemming from a world leader's seeking to preserve respect for states' independence and to protect the rights of helpless peoples.

3—It would have strengthened the position of the Arab leaders who decided to dispatch defense forces.

I am certain that President Mubarak's position is based on a sincere and honest sense of responsibility, and that the demagogic accusations do not shake his determination to defend the truth. But could not President Bush have spared us these false accusations?

Column Criticizes Al-Bashir for Supporting Saddam

JN0110114490 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Sep 90 p 12

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] The problem with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, leader of the so-called national salvation revolution in Sudan, is that he lacks a political background; that he has not been well versed in history; and that he still thinks, like many others, that peoples can only be ruled with an iron hand!!

Had Lt. Gen. al-Bashir known the real ambitions and desires of the Sudanese, he would have endeavored further to support the economic, social, and historical ties between the Sudanese and their Egyptian brothers. This would not call for a strenuous effort on the part of al-Bashir—considering that these relations, as people say, are eternal, and that maintaining them strong and solid is not subject to discussion, bargaining, or argument of any kind.

Having learned that Saddam Husayn told President Mubarak, when the latter asked him to recognize the Sudanese revolution, that "We will discuss the matter," the leader of the national salvation revolution should reassess his position and that of "his friends," very closely.

On the domestic scene, 'Umar al-Bashir is suffering severe economic crises, a civil war menacing the homeland in its entirety, and unrelenting political trends, the majority of which do not think highly of him.

The interests of Sudan require that it side with justice and not go astray on the path of misguidance; that it abide by principles to the fullest extent, instead of encouraging aggression, seizure of others' lands, and encroachment upon inviolable rights, especially since al-Bashir—according to his claims—respects the teachings of the true Islamic religion and is eager to abide by them in the best manner.

Finally, I would like to whisper a word in 'Umar al-Bashir's ear: Believe me, had Saddam Husayn found other supporters he would never have tried to win you over to his side, or Zine El Abidine, and other members of the "gang!!" For Saddam likes to play with winning cards. However, when he was surprised by the "big powers'" decisive stand against his vagaries, and rejection of his actions and attitudes, you were his only alternative, despite his prior conviction that your support for him was of no value—which has been proved by events.

At any rate, I do not want to be biased or unfair. For perhaps Lt. Gen. al-Bashir could not resist Saddam's temptations and promises and the castles he built in the air, when the "wealth is shared" and al-Bashir was indeed under the illusion that his rights are to be preserved. This is because al-Bashir—as I have indicated—is a man of little experience and easily guided!

However, it is not shameful for anyone to admit his mistakes or to rectify his position. In my opinion, this is the most appropriate time for the national salvation revolution in Sudan to "salvage" itself.

God—to whom be ascribed all majesty and perfection—has created us to learn and benefit from our experiences, and not to listen to Saddam Husayn's "nonsense."

Democratic 'Lessons' Seen in U.S. Aid Freeze

PM0310150190 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 29 Sep 90 p 1

[Editorial by Jamal Badawi: "Lessons From United States"]

[Text] The U.S. Congress Operations [as published] Committee has decided to freeze the request concerning the dropping of Egypt's military debts. And to justify this it was said. The Committee expects Congress to reject the request if submitted in its present form. It does not concern us now how sincere or insincere that interpretation is. What concerns us is its meaning and the lessons to be learned from it.

The first of these lessons is that we must not be dependent on U.S. aid. We must confront the prevailing view that U.S. skies will rain billions of dollars over Egypt to rescue it from its current crisis!! That harmful climate can spread the spirit of indifference, passiveness, and negativism. We must be convinced that it is the money of Egyptian expatriates that can rescue Egypt, that it is the Egyptian Government that can rise to the level of the age, get rid of the vestiges of totalitarianism, lift restrictions on the Egyptian economy, and adopt the economic freedom principle now being sought by the communist states afflicted by backwardness.

The second lesson is that we must fully realize that U.S. policy is based on the "pragmatic" interest principle—a principle which acknowledges that the United States has permanent friends or permanent enemies. But it also has permanent interests which it places above the interests of others, even if the others are friends. Besides, there are degrees of friendship in U.S. traditions, and they are replaceable according to circumstances.

The third and the most important of these lessons is that the U.S. President—regardless of his name—cannot on his own make a decision affecting U.S. interests without permission from Congress. No president—no matter how much confidence is granted him—can dispose of U.S. money before seeking the approval of the people represented by Congress. Congress tells the president "No," and the president has to obey. All he can do to secure a decision is try to convince Congress of his view.

This is the democratic system which places the people's authority above the state's authority. And we look at our democracy and hope to attain the U.S. level in order to have a strong parliament armed with courage, knowledge, culture, and awareness. We do not want an assembly skilled in applauding, cheering, and making noise. We do not want an assembly that says "we agree...we agree." We do not want an assembly half of which is asleep and another fourth of which is after benefits and privileges, and whose conscious minority is ruled by a stick from a tyrannical podium!!

We want an assembly that says "No" when "No" is a national necessity, an assembly that says "Yes" when "Yes" is a response to the homeland's higher interests.

Four Dollar Oil Price Decrease Effective 4 Oct

NC0310153390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1414 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—Egypt has decided to reduce the prices of its crude oil by $4 per barrel effective tomorrow, Thursday.

Hammad Ayyub, deputy chairman of the Petroleum Authority, announced this. He noted that this decrease was due to sudden drop in oil prices during the past two days because of political statements that implied the possibility of a peaceful settlement to the Gulf problem and also as a result of an expanded meeting held by the member countries of the International Energy Organization last Friday [28 September].

The conferees agreed at this meeting to draw from the strategic stock to confront the price increase.

He pointed out that in line with these changes, the Petroleum Authority decided to lower Egyptian oil prices. [passage omitted]

Libya

Restrictions in Dealings With Germany Lifted

LD0310104890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1040 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Oct 90, JANA—JANA has learned that the great Jamahiriyah has decided to lift all reservations and restrictions on its dealings with Germany.

Sudan

Minister Meets IMF, World Bank Officials

EA0210205890 Khartoum SUNA in English 0939 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 30 September (SUNA)—The IMF decision to declare Sudan "unco-operation state" [as received] is only concerning its inability to repay the debts arrears to the fund and doesn't mean the end of cooperation between them, the finance minister, quoting the IMF executive director, said Sunday [30th September]. Finance minister Dr. Abdal Rahim Hamdi quoted the IMF executive director as saying the IMF is keen to maintain good relations with the Sudan" [no opening quotation marks as received]. Dr. Hamdi described talks he had held recently with IMF and the World Bank as "positive with good returns to Sudan".

In a statement to the daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" published today Dr. Hamdi elaborated on his talks with the World Bank and described them as "good opportunity for Sudan to brief the bank on the government-designed three-year economic recovery program". "The bank was receptive and pledged technical assistance" to some parts of the program, he said.

The minister returned yesterday from Washington after having talks with the IMF and the World Bank on the progress of relations between the Sudan and the two financial institutions. The minister explained that two missions from the World Bank and the international finance corporation are due here shortly to provide advises [as received] and get acquainted with the situation of the public sector and other institutions.

Comments on Ties With IMF

EA0210210290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Abdal Rahim Hamdi, finance and economic planning minister, has stressed that the IMF in declaring Sudan an uncooperative country did not take the government by surprise, as was anticipated. He said that the government had formulated a measure which would guarantee obtaining alternative external resources.

His excellency the finance minister further stated that the IMF director general had interpreted the fund's announcement as a notice to the Government of Sudan about the necessity to pay its arrears to the fund, rather than meaning to punish Sudan or to end Sudan's relations with the IMF. He pointed out that the IMF as well as the World Bank had reiterated their readiness to continue the existing relations with Sudan and to promote them.

He added that if any country or other party wished to interpret the IMF's announcement in a contrary fashion and (?assume) stances towards Sudan based on that, this was their own business.

His excellency the minister stated that there would be a round of negotiations between Sudan and the IMF after the completion of the drafting of recommendations which the government would submit to the IMF for negotiation. He pointed out that the relevant technical organs at the Ministry of Finance would soon undertake the preparation of the recommendations which are to be submitted to the IMF during the next few weeks.

Authors of 'I Am Sudan' Statement Identified

PM0310142790 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 29 Sep 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Who Are the 'I Am Sudan' Officers"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Text] London, AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI—Information received by AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI has confirmed that three senior Sudanese Army officers—namely Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id, and Staff Brigadier al-Hadi Bashri—were behind the statement issued by the "I Am Sudan" [ana al-Sudan] movement, which announced the Sudanese opposition's decision to move from covert to open action with a view to toppling the 'Umar al-Bashir regime in alliance with the Democratic Grouping.

It is known that the three officers were accused of taking part in the April 1990 coup attempt. And that Lt. Gen. Ahmad 'Ali, who was commander in chief of the Armed Forces, was behind the famous memorandum sent by Sudanese Armed Forces officers to the al-Sadiq al-Mahdi government in February 1990 [as published]. As for Lt. Gen. Sa'id, former chief of staff, he was arrested but was helped by a group of officers to flee to Abu Dhabi, then London, Cairo, and Addis Ababa to complete consultations and prepare the statement published by AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in its yesterday's issue.

Brig. Bashri was the man who turned the security and intelligence organ into a national organ to serve national democratic authorities.

Radio SPLA on Tranquillity Period, Cease-Fire

EA0210231690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Excerpts] In a message to Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Front] the chairman and commander in chief of SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/SPLA], Comrade John Garang de Mabior, reaffirmed the movement's commitment to the program of UNICEF to vaccinate children against common preventable diseases all over the Sudan in both SPLA and government-administered areas.

The chairman told Radio SPLA that the director of UNICEF, Mr. James Grant, had written to him about four months ago requesting three months of tranquillity to enable UNICEF to carry out this program. The SPLM/SPLA chairman told Radio SPLA that he had immediately then replied positively to Mr. James Grant verbally through the bearers of the letter and subsequently in writing affirming the movement's total support and cooperation with UNICEF's child immunization program throughout Sudan.

With respect to a period of tranquillity, the chairman, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, had responded that limiting it to three months is too restrictive and may not be useful in view of the physical conditions of transport, vastness of the area, the scattered form of settlement, and so on. Indeed the situation is such that three months may expire without a single child being vaccinated. Accordingly, the position of the movement is that the period of tranquillity for the purpose of UNICEF's child vaccination program should be open-ended and that all that is needed is for the two sides, the SPLA and the government of the day in Khartoum, to agree and commit themselves to (?respect) and facilitate UNICEF's vaccination team to go to any areas to this noble humanitarian work of vaccinating our children. [passage omitted]

In the case of child vaccination, both sides must give total and unconditional agreement, cooperation, and facilitation, as the children belong to all of us and should not be affected by politics under any circumstances. Indeed a child, although the product of two people, once born, belongs to the whole world and it would be the most unscrupulous of politicians who uses children for political purposes.

The movement's genuine concern for the war-scattered, war-displaced, and war-traumatized children of the

Sudan has given concrete expression in the recent formation of a foundation, the face to face foundation, to cater for the educational material and spiritual needs of Sudan's war-affected children, and the SPLM/SPLA chairman, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, takes this opportunity to appeal to the international community for any form of assistance to the face foundation.

With respect to 'Umar al-Bashir's call for a permanent cease-fire, the SPLM/SPLA chairman told Radio SPLA that 'Umar al-Bashir's government rejected the American peace initiative only three months ago, last June. [passage omitted] Advise 'Umar al-Bashir to look for a cease-fire in this proposal rather than through innocent children, said the SPLM/SPLA chairman. [passage omitted] Indeed, as 'Umar al-Bashir was going to New York and while he was addressing the conference on children, he was bombing and killing these same children he says he wants to vaccinate.

The SPLM/SPLA chairman and commander in chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, ended by affirming that the movement was ready to declare and work out a cease-fire agreement if 'Umar al-Bashir agreed to disengage his troops north of the line suggested in our reply to the American peace proposal. This is a concrete cease-fire proposition, not a vague and propaganda call nor a cease-fire as 'Umar al-Bashir (?issued it) in New York, taking advantage of a conference on children. It is a concrete proposal like the SPLA has always done that will bring peace to our suffering and war-tired people, not empty propaganda calls for a cease-fire and Khartoum's many unilateral one-sided peace conferences to solve what they call the southern problem at a time when they know that Kurdufan, Blue Nile, and Darfur are all engulfed in the war.

The SPLM/SPLA chairman and commander in chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior calls on 'Umar al-Bashir's military junta to accept the American peace initiative and to disengage their forces north of an agreed line, as this is for a cease-fire.

Council of Ministers Approves Japanese Agreements

EA0210211290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] At its meeting today, chaired by Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, the Council of Ministers approved a draft law ratifying a grant agreement between Sudan and Japan concerning a project for improving rural water resources, second phase, for 1990, worth $7.1 million. It also approved a draft law ratifying a Japanese aid agreement for a project to rehabilitate Khartoum telephones, second phase, for 1990, worth $9.5 million. It also approved a draft law ratifying a grant agreement between Sudan and Japan for a project to rehabilitate sanitary drainage sewers for 1990, worth $10.5 million. It was presented by the minister of finance and economic planning. The council also approved a decree for establishing a public corporation for mechanized agriculture which was presented by the minister of agriculture and natural and animal resources.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Delivers Speech at UN

JN0210112190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 2 Oct (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah has affirmed that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has deeply wounded the conscience of humanity, totally shattered the pillars of international security, and placed world peace on the edge of an active volcano.

In a speech delivered early this morning before the 45th session of the UN General Assembly [UNGA], the Bahraini foreign minister said that this session is convening while the United Nations is going through an important period of its history represented by the transformation of the cold war era into an era of detente evolving from a contemporary view that seeks to transform the ideological dispute and struggle over interests to a new level of international cooperation based on enlightened dialogue and clear understanding of world issues.

Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah added that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwaiti territory on 2 August came to test international detente and affirm that this new philosophy could collapse if international efforts do not combine to set up an effective security system in the world.

In his speech the Bahraini foreign minister affirmed that Bahrain's stand on the Iraqi invasion and aggression against Kuwait is clear and frank: It necessitates that Iraqi troops withdraw from Kuwaiti territories without conditions or restrictions, the non-recognition of the annexation of Kuwait to Iraq, and adherence to the return of the legitimate government which existed in Kuwait before the invasion, represented by the Amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

He also affirmed the need to respect the rights of civilians in Kuwaiti territories under Iraqi occupation, securing their safety, and protecting their lives and property in accordance with the provisions of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention.

The Bahraini foreign minister in his speech asked the Iraqi authorities not to tamper with the internal structure of Kuwait, because such action represents a violation of international law. He also affirmed the legitimate rights of Kuwaitis and others who were harmed by not receiving any just compensation as a result of the losses they incurred. He said that he considered the decision ending the functions of the accredited foreign missions and consulates in Kuwait as null and void.

He called on Iraq to adhere to the UN Security Council resolutions and respond to international unanimity to preserve international legitimacy.

On the issue of Gulf security, the Bahraini foreign minister said the security challenges brought about by the Iraqi invasion call for reviewing Gulf security in a way that befits the givens of the age of reconciliation and guarantees protection of international and regional interests.

He referred to the need to make the necessary international preparations at times of crisis, especially those contained in the seventh chapter of the Charter calling for implementing measures on which the UN Security Council members agree in cases of threats and violations of peace and aggression against any member country in the United Nations.

Regarding the Helsinki summit which was held on 9 September between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah said that this summit constitutes an important starting point on the road to entrenching the bases of a new international system based on respect for the principles of the UN charter and international law.

He affirmed Bahrain's total support for the joint statement of the Helsinki summit which confirms many basic principles, the most important of which is that no international peace system can be realized if big countries are allowed to occupy their smaller neighbors.

The Bahraini foreign minister noted in his speech that it is the right of any state to make legitimate arrangements to defend itself and guarantee the safety and security of its citizens, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter on legitimate defense.

He praised the friendly and fraternal states which responded to Saudi Arabia's call and participated in defending its territories, thus raising the number of these countries to 22, representing Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe, and Australia, and responding to international legitimacy confidently and determinedly to deter aggression and preserve peace in the Gulf region.

In his speech, Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah also referred to the Palestine question. He called for realizing a just and comprehensive settlement to this question through convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all concerned parties and the five permanent members of the Security Council to enable the Palestinian people to practice their right to self-determination and set up their independent state on their national soil.

He stressed the need for the Israeli occupation troops to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, as well as from southern Lebanon and the Syrian Golan Heights.

Concerning Lebanon, the Bahraini foreign minister expressed his satisfaction that the concerned parties to the conflict had managed to reach the al-Ta‘if agreement which represents the bases for national unity.

Regarding the policy of detente between the two superpowers and adherence of the majority of world countries to the provisions of the Charter and principles of international law, Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah said that this policy did not reflect on the deteriorating economic situation of the developing countries, since these countries continue to suffer from the crushing economic crises left behind by the seventies and eighties.

He noted that the debt crisis, from whose negative effects the world started to suffer at the beginning of the eighties, is the most prominent problem currently confronting the developing countries.

He expressed his hopes for strengthening international cooperation to settle the debt problems within the UN framework and that the commitments of the economic declaration issued by the 18th extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly regarding international economic cooperation and revival of the economic growth and development in the developing countries be given due respect and implemented away from political disputes.

He also expressed hope that the efforts to apply the international development strategy for the UN decade for development would be successful.

Minister Confers With PRC, Iranian Officials

JN2809095690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1845 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] New York, 27 Sep (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah has met with PRC Foreign Affairs Minister Qian Qichen at the United Nations in New York. The two ministers discussed Bahraini-PRC ties and the existing bilateral cooperation in various spheres.

The Bahraini foreign minister reviewed with his PRC counterpart the Gulf crisis caused by the Iraqi military invasion of the State of Kuwait, the ensuing dangers posed by this invasion on the regional and world scenes, and the efforts being made at the United Nations and the UN Security Council to enforce the economic measures and moves to force Iraq to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait and to secure the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government represented by Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

The Bahraini and PRC sides also discussed a number of topics regarding world security and peace listed on the agenda of the 45th session of the UN General Assembly

Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah also met with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati today.

During the meeting, they discussed the Iraqi military invasion of the State of Kuwait and the impending dangers that it poses to the Gulf region. Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati affirmed his country's rejection of the Iraqi invasion, occupation, and annexation of Kuwait. Velayati declared his country's full support for the UN Security Council resolutions and reiterated its commitment to implement the economic blockade taken against Iraq to force it to withdraw its troops unconditionally from the lands of the State of Kuwait and to restore the legitimate authority there.

The two ministers also reviewed Bahraini-Iranian ties. Furthermore, they discussed a host of international topics listed on the agenda of the 45th session of the UN General Assembly.

The Bahraini foreign minister took part in the meeting held earlier today by the Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers on the sidelines of the current UN General Assembly session.

During this meeting, they held talks and coordinated moves to deal with the dangers to the Gulf region because of the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait and the oppressive and arbitrary measures practiced by the invasion troops against the Kuwaiti people to make them leave their country and abandon their belongings and rights.

Prime Minister Expresses Support for Kuwaitis

JN0310091790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 2 Oct (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah reaffirmed today Bahrain's firm position on the need for a full and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from the territory of the State of Kuwait and also for the restoration of the legitimate government represented by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, and His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister.

The prime minister praised the consensus of the international community in condemning the invasion and demanding a rapid Iraqi withdrawal. He said that the applause given to his highness the Kuwaiti amir when he delivered his country's speech at the UN General Assembly clearly reflects the powerful international solidarity being demonstrated in support of the State of Kuwait and its legitimate government.

In a meeting this morning with a delegation representing the Kuwaiti community living in Bahrain, the Bahraini prime minister also paid tribute to the honorable position of the Kuwaiti people, who have stood united behind their legitimate leadership and displayed loyalty to principles and right and rejection of injustice and aggression. He added: The ordeal to which the Kuwaiti people have been exposed has called forth the noble traits of this people and strengthened their firmness and determination to protect their accomplishments, territory, and national soil.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah referred to the march in which Kuwaiti nationals are taking part in Bahrain today and said that this march reflects the spirit of challenge and the determination to return home soon, not to mention the fact that it represents a clear message of support for the legitimate authority. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Meets Lebanese Prime Minister

JN2909213990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] New York, 29 Sep (WAKH)—Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah met today in New York with Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss, who is taking part in the UN General Assembly's 45th session.

During the meeting, they reviewed relations between Bahrain and Lebanon and cooperation between the two countries, as well as the developments in the Lebanese question and efforts to resolve it on the basis of the al-Ta'if agreement. They also discussed the explosive situation in the Gulf resulting from the Iraqi military invasion of the State of Kuwait and the serious effects it has had on the Gulf, the Middle East, and the Lebanese question.

The two sides also discussed topics on the session's agenda, at the top of which is the economic embargo measures stipulated in the UN Security Council resolutions to force Iraq to withdraw its invasion troops from Kuwait and restore the legitimate government of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait.

Minister on Improving Relations With Moscow

PM0310150390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Sep 90 p 5

[Khalil Matar report: "Bahraini Foreign Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Exchange of Diplomatic Representation With Moscow Enhancement for Arab-Soviet Relations"]

[Text] New York, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah regards the agreement to establishment diplomatic representation between his country and Moscow as an enhancement and a force for good Arab-Soviet relations in general.

He pointed out that Bahrain has maintained relations with the Soviet Union for a long time and that mutual recognition exists, but the new thing is the agreement to start diplomatic representation. He expressed his hope that that will contribute to strengthening relations between the two countries.

The Bahraini foreign minister said in a statement: We have opened a new chapter and hope that it will bring positive results.

It was announced in New York yesterday morning that the State of Bahrain and the Soviet Union agreed to exchange diplomatic representation in response to a common desire for the benefit of the two countries' peoples and common interests. The Bahraini minister told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We understand the Soviet Union's stances on the Arab issues, especially the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. These stances are clear and have helped the international community in assessing the situation, which is why that assessment has been swift and resolute.

He said that the Soviet Union is an important power, especially in view of the changes which have taken place in Eastern Europe. Asked whether he sensed during the meeting that he and Gulf Cooperation Council ministers had with Shevardnadze on Friday morning any willingness or desire to contribute militarily in the region, the minister said: Although I did not discuss that, we hear the Soviets say that any steps which the international community adopts will enjoy a Soviet contribution without any hesitation.

He emphasized that the U.S. position is both firm and strong with regard to the implementation of the international community's resolution and the UN Charter in the face of the brutal Iraqi aggression.

Hamad Emphasizes Strong Ties Among GCC Members

JN0310091290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 2 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, has paid a visit to Shaykh 'Isa Airbase. His highness announced that, out of the Bahraini Air Force's belief in the strong historical relations among the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], whose charter provides that any aggression against any of these states be considered aggression against all of them; and in order to reaffirm the principle of common military action; and in addition to the participation of the Bahraini Defense Force within the Peninsula Shield Forces, orders were issued—at the beginning of our region's ordeal—to the Bahraini Air Force and the Amir Naval Force to put all their potentials into a role that translates the fraternal relations between the State of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia into reality, so as to achieve justice.

Concluding, his highness the heir apparent and commander in chief of the Defense Force expressed his thanks and appreciation for the sincere work and achievements of all units of the Bahraini Defense Force. He thanked God for this. He also thanked the ground, air, and naval units of the Defense Force for their fruitful efforts. He added that this is not unexpected, because our men are always determined to carry out their duties. And this is always a source of pride to us.

Information Minister Leaves for Cairo on Visit

JN0210134290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 2 Oct (WAKH)—Bahraini Information Minister Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad left Manama for Cairo today on an official visit to the Arab

Republic of Egypt at the invitation of Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

During the visit, the Bahraini minister will hold talks with the Egyptian minister on ways to enhance bilateral cooperation and coordination in various information spheres. Furthermore, the talks will tackle ways to effect media coordination between Egypt and Bahrain on the Gulf developments caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Resistance Claims Added Strength, Equipment

Victory in Operations

PM0310122390 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 27 Sep 90 pp 1, 23

[Report by Muhammad al-Safyan and 'Abdallah al-Yami: "Palestinians Fighting Against Invading Forces; Kuwaiti Resistance Inflicts Heavy Losses on Iraqis in Two Daring Operations"]

[Text] A Kuwaiti resistance leader has emphasized to AL-RIYAD that the resistance has started this week to step up its operations against the Iraqi occupation forces.

He pointed out that the Kuwaiti resistance carried out a heroic operation against one of the invading forces' concentrations in a center occupied in the past by a professional association. The heroes carried out this 10-minute operation, killing seven Iraqi soldiers who were identified outside the invading forces' command center.

Another three soldiers were killed at a checkpoint near the center; but it is not known how many were killed inside the center.

Kuwaiti resistance men carried out a daring operation against an Iraqi personnel carrier carrying about 20 soldiers. It was hit by RPG missiles at a pedestrian bridge in the al-Naqrah area.

The Kuwaiti leader added that a seven-hour confrontation took place between Kuwaiti resistance men and the Iraqi occupation forces in one of their centers of concentration. The resistance men started their shelling from 0200 through 0900 hours, inflicting heavy losses among Iraqi soldiers. Residents of Kuwait have been talking about the operation for the past two days.

Meanwhile, informed sources have spoken to AL-RIYAD about skirmishes which took place between the invading Iraqi forces and some Palestinians openly declaring their loyalty to Kuwait and condemning the Iraqi aggression. These Palestinians are not affiliated to any of the PLO organizations or groups taking the Iraqi regime's side. A large number of these Palestinians have joined the Kuwaiti resistance.

'Major' Activities Predicted

PM0310130490 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 29 Sep 90 p 14

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Fighter Says Kuwaiti Resistance Relies on Iraqi Army To Obtain Equipment"]

[Text] 'UKAZ, exclusive—Thanks to the organization of resistance operations in recent days, the Kuwaiti resistance now possesses light weapons and military equipment and several maps of Iraqi military positions. The Kuwaiti resistance also includes a number of Arab nationals who support the truth.

A representative of the Kuwaiti resistance has confirmed the martyrdom of some of the Arab resistance fighters who believe in the just causes.

The Kuwaiti citizen emphasized that in the days ahead there will be major resistance activities and developments involving both equipment and methods. He added that the Iraqi occupation has rendered a great service to the resistance by evacuating women, children, and the elderly from residential areas, as families left for Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and other Arab states.

The Kuwaiti citizen emphasized that it is impossible for the Iraqi forces to control all parts of Kuwait, since they find themselves scattered on several fronts. This is in addition to their profound concerns about the Iraqi scene and opposition activities.

The Kuwaiti fighter said that the most notable of the resistance operations was that against the Iraqi Embassy, which was hit by RPG missiles. As a result, it was completely burned down and at least 50 military personnel and diplomats were killed, including Iraqi Ambassador 'Abd-al-Jabbar Ghaniyy. Members of the resistance were also able to kill 20 Iraqi soldiers, using hand grenades obtained—together with other weapons—from the Iraqi Army troops themselves.

In another operation carried out by a young Kuwaiti woman, a number of Iraqi military vehicles were destroyed by fire outside Al-Hadi Hospital after they were hit by Molotov cocktails.

The Kuwaiti fighter said that the Iraqi forces always try to hide Iraqi corpses so that no news about them spreads to other troops, whose morale is deteriorating, or to the families of the soldiers killed for fear of increasing anger inside the country.

The Kuwaiti citizen added: The Iraqi forces bombard all the houses surrounding any position hit by the Kuwaiti resistance. He said that after an exchange of fire lasting 45 minutes in the al-Salimiyah area between the resistance and Iraqi internal security forces, the Iraqis bombarded five buildings in the same place, but members of the resistance managed to withdraw safely.

The Kuwaiti fighter stressed that the occupation troops are easy targets for Kuwaiti resistance operations. He said that Iraqi Army personnel prefer to hide in police stations and buildings or to escape to other states in the region, rather than walking in the streets, and this has prompted the Iraqi regime to flood Kuwait with intelligence and internal security personnel who have committed ugly crimes against innocent civilians.

The Kuwaiti fighter revealed that the Iraqi forces have turned Kazimah Sports Club in to a concentration camp. Al-Sulaybikhat Police Station has been turned into an assembly point for anyone whom the Iraqi authorities decide to move to Iraqi prisons and detention centers.

More Successes

LD0310200590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1755 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] London, 3 Oct (SPA)—According to press reports published in London today, the Kuwaiti resistance has killed 28 and injured 36 of the invading Iraqi forces.

Citing private sources, the [Kuwaiti] AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI newspaper said that the Kuwaiti resistance has shifted the confrontation into Iraq itself within the framework of expanding its activities, using for the purpose a campaign involving booby-trapped cars.

The paper disclosed that one resistance unit has succeeded in planting two booby-trapped cars in an al-Basrah garage for military vehicles which was the principal garage for the transportation of the invading forces between Iran and Kuwait.

The paper added that last Thursday afternoon, while the garage was full of military convoys returning from Kuwait, two booby-trapped vehicles exploded, causing several fires which led to the killing of 28 men and the injuring of 96 others.

The paper pointed out that the resistance succeeded last Saturday in killing three assistant under-secretaries at the Iraqi Trade Ministry, which played a major role in handling the loot from Kuwait.

The paper said that, in retaliation for the two operations, the occupation forces in al-Basrah and Kuwait carried out a ferocious campaign of arrests and crucified a senior Kuwaiti police officer on a charge of supporting resistance operations.

Popular Conference Set in Jeddah 13-15 Oct

JN3009115890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, 30 Sep (WAKH)—Press reports said here today that it has been decided to hold a massive Kuwaiti popular conference under the patronage of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, in the city of Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the period 13-15 October.

Sources quoted a Kuwaiti deputy as saying that this conference comes to support all the efforts being made to liberate Kuwait and restore its legitimate government. He indicated that all Kuwaitis should seek to realize higher interests, rise above side differences, and base their moves on the fact that there is a common objective and one destiny for them.

The prominent Kuwaiti deputy viewed this conference as a nucleus for Kuwaiti cohesion to overcome the crisis firmly with the resolve of the people and of the legitimate leadership. He stressed the need to step up acts of resistance inside Kuwait, boost morale, and mobilize all Kuwaitis throughout the world.

The conference will bring together the cabinet members within the legitimate Kuwaiti Government, former members of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, members of the Kuwaiti National Council, as well as members of municipal councils, public charity societies, and cooperative societies. The conference will also be attended by members of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce, and student and worker unions, heads of sports clubs, directors, and senior Kuwaiti figures.

Spokesman Views Palestinian Statement

LD0310193690 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] In reply to statements by some leaders of Palestinian groups in regard to the crime of the treacherous Iraqi regime against the State of Kuwait and as a comment on what the PLO representative put forward during the rally held recently in Jordan, an official Kuwaiti cabinet spokesman has stated the following:

Every now and then the various information media come out with statements attributed to some leaders of Palestinian groups concerning the crime of the treacherous Iraqi regime against the State of Kuwait. It is truly regrettable that, for one reason or another, these leaders have totally thrown themselves in the lap of the criminal Iraqi regime and turned themselves into bugles for the regime, working hard to deliver it from its international isolation by sponsoring so-called initiatives to deal with the grave situation resulting from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

The latest such alleged initiative was the one put forward by the PLO representative in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in which he tried to serve the rancorous Iraqi regime, linking the withdrawal of the invading Iraqi forces from Kuwait with a settlement of the Palestine question.

The cabinet wishes to stress the two following points in this regard:

First, Kuwait expected these groups to take an ethical stance that would support the right and condemn the aggression to which the Kuwaiti people were subjected.

Second, these groups have begun to lose their credibility on the Arab, Islamic, and international arena by their stand on the side of the Iraqi regime which has been rejected by the international community because of its treacherous criminal practices—a stand whose motives arouse suspicion.

The cabinet affirms that the only way to end the worsening explosive situation in the Arab Gulf as a result of the occupation by the Iraqi aggressor of the State of Kuwait lies in the complete and immediate implementation of the resolutions of the emergency Arab Summit Conference and the UN Security Council in this regard.

The cabinet points out that there can no longer be any hope in any efforts that depart from these resolutions and that the opportunity is still open before these groups to return to the arena of truth and declare their denunciation and rejection of the occupation of Kuwait and of Saddam Husayn's aggressive practices, which have contributed to the creation of an atmosphere of division and destitution within the Arab world.

Amir To Address ICO Ministers at UN 1 Oct

LD3009204290 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] member countries will tomorrow be holding in New York their annual coordination meeting on the sidelines of the meetings of the UN General Assembly.

His Highness Shaykh Jabir-Al-Ahmad al-Sabah the amir of the State of Kuwait, current chairman of the fifth Islamic summit, will deliver an address at this meeting, during which the ministers will be coordinating their respective countries' positions on the issues interesting them. This will be at the 45th session of the UN General Assembly.

The Islamic foreign ministers are expected to discuss during this meeting the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its negative effects on peace and security in the Arab region, in addition to the Palestinian problem, Holy Jerusalem, the situation in Afghanistan and South Africa, and the economic problems facing the African states.

Heir Apparent Meets Omani Royal Official

LD3009154190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Summary] Al-Ta'if, 30 Sep (SPA)—His Highness the deputy amir of the State of Kuwait and heir apparent, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, received today His Excellency Sayf Bin-Hamad, minister of Diwan of the royal court of the fraternal Sultanate of Oman. Sayf Bin-Hamad conveyed to his highness a message for His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, from his brother the Sultan of Oman His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. The Kuwaiti minister of Islamic affairs was also present at the meeting.

Amir Confers With Venezuelan President Peres

LD0310214390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1931 GMT 3 Oct 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message" program]

[Text] His Highness (the Amir), may God protect him, received His Excellency President Carlos Andres Peres, the president of the Republic of Venezuela, and the delegation accompanying His Excellency.

Qatar

Amir, Italian Official Discuss Cooperation

JN0310171090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 3 Oct (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani received Italian Deputy Prime Minister Claudio Martelli here this morning.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY reported that their talks dealt with the situation in the region and developments in the Gulf crisis brought about by Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and its refusal to submit to legitimacy and the international will represented by the Security Council resolutions, which demands the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwaiti territory and the restoral of the legitimate government of Kuwait under the leadership of its amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

They reviewed ways to bolster cooperation between the Arab League, whose Ministerial Council is currently chaired by Qatar, and the EEC which is currently chaired by Italy, as well as coordination between Qatar and the Gulf Cooperation Council in general on the one hand and Italy and the EEC on the other in the interest and benefit of the two sides.

Saudi Arabia

U.S., Other Soldiers Reportedly Clash 3 Oct

JN0410080690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Oct 90 p 18

[Text] Al-'Aqabah—Reliable and well informed people arriving from Saudi Arabia have reported that Egyptian soldiers killed four U.S. soldiers at a crossroads between Riyadh and Hafr al-Batin, 80 km from Riyadh. The incident took place yesterday morning when a detachment of U.S. soldiers prevented Egyptian soldiers from passing through. An argument ensued, and an Egyptian soldier opened fire at the Americans, killing four of them. The U.S. detachment then called for help from a nearby American post. When a number of American vehicles were rushing to rescue the detachment, they came across a convoy of Arab soldiers and the U.S. soldiers opened fire at the convoy, killing or injuring 30 men.

Eyewitnesses told AL-DUSTUR that they saw with their own eyes scores of ambulances carrying wounded and dead soldiers. The Saudi soldiers then issued orders to clear the area and stopped traffic for hours.

King Welcomes Mitterrand to Jeddah

LD0410103190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1010 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 4 Oct (SPA)—His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Jeddah at noon today on a visit to the Kingdom.

He was welcomed at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Saud, and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and head of the National Guard. [passage omitted]

Sa'ud al-Faysal, Shevardnadze Meet in New York

LD0410075990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0724 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] New York 4 Oct (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, had a meeting today at the Soviet mission in New York with His Excellency Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, Soviet foreign minister, on the sidelines of the meetings of the United Nations General Assembly.

During this meeting, they discussed the positive development in bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union, and the boosting of the international efforts aimed at the carrying out of the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the State of Kuwait, and the return of the latter's legitimate government.

Taking part in the meeting was His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the ambassador of the Kingdom in Washington, and member of the Kingdom's delegation to the meetings of the United Nations General Assembly.

Minister on Normalizing Relations With Iran

LD0210144990 London KUNA in English 1217 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] New York, Oct 2 (KUNA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has said his country is ready to discuss the normalisation of diplomatic relations with Iran.

He was speaking to KUNA last night after an Islamic conference organisation ministerial meeting held here at the United Nations in New York.

Asked to respond to Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's comment published here Monday that Iran was ready to discuss the matter if the Saudis want to, he said: "We, too are ready."

The prince's remarks came after a weekend in which he and his Iranian counterpart met twice.

The first meeting was on Saturday, when Velayati met GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] foreign ministers to discuss the Gulf crisis, and the second was on Sunday, at a bilateral meeting in the presence of the two countries' representatives at the UN.

On Sunday, the two ministers discussed both the situation in the Gulf and the al-Hadj incidents of 1987, which led to the severing of diplomatic relations between their countries.

"We hope that, God willing, relations will be normalised when both parties agree to this," Prince Sa'ud told KUNA.

During the past ten days, Iran has restored diplomatic relations with Tunisia, Britain and Mauritania, and diplomats here are predicting that Saudi Arabia will be next, and soon.

Crown Prince Receives Kuwaiti Counterpart

LD0310150690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1335 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 3 Oct (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz—the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard—received Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, vice amir of Kuwait, at his office at the Royal Court at al-Salam Palace this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the Kuwaiti defense minister, and Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Praises Venezuelan Proposal

LD0310222290 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1931 GMT 3 Oct 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message" Program]

[Excerpts] Venezuelan Television held an interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, after the meeting of His Highness the amir of the country with His Excellency President Andres Peres. [passage omitted] The foreign minister said:

We find that his highness the Amir (?even) in his meeting with his friend the Venezuelan president was satisfied and heard from him all the support regarding the issue of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and [word indistinct] all that Kuwait asks from Venezuela. Thus, on behalf of His Highness we appreciate and thank Venezuela for its stance as far as this issue is concerned.

He talked to His Highness the amir about this issue, and His Highness the amir first expressed appreciation for Venezuela's stance in his speech to the United Nations. At the same time they talked about the Venezuelan proposal which he presented in his speech today [word indistinct] Kuwait will support this proposal in the interest of the whole world.

Foreign Minister Lauds Relations With France

LD0310215290 London KUNA in Arabic 1317 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 3 Oct (KUNA)—Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al- Ahmad, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, today praised the bilateral relations binding Kuwait and France and described them as "ancient and good."

In an interview with KUNA here today, Shaykh Nasir al-Ahmad said that he met the representative of the French Government, Ambassador Bressot, late last night. They reviewed all aspects of Kuwaiti- French relations, in addition to the latest political developments in the Arab arena, and the dimensions of the flagrant Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, which has entered its third month.

He added that during the meeting, the French ambassador, appointed by President Mitterrand to be at the disposal of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government, stressed anew "his country's firm and inalienable stance, and that France is doing its utmost, together with the rest of the world, for the complete implementation of all the UN Security Council resolutions." [passage omitted]

As for the results of his recent visit to Tehran, Shaykh Nasir al-Ahmad added in his statement to KUNA that he handed a verbal message from the amir of Kuwait to his brother, Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He described the visit as "positive and good."

He added: "The brother Iranians strongly insist on the complete implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions." At the same time, he pointed out that he conveyed to the Iranian president "the true picture of the severe and difficult circumstances under which the sons of the Kuwaiti people live, under the burden of the Iraqi occupation."

He praised the Iranian officials' warm reception and hospitality with which he and the accompanying delegation were met. He stressed that they "reflect the spirit of the good relations which bind Kuwait and Iran." [passage omitted]

Aims of Al-Faysal-Velayati Meeting Viewed

PM0310155290 London AL-ZAHIRAH in Arabic 2 Oct 90 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Riyadh-Iran Meeting; Tehran Will Not Sympathize with Baghdad"]

[Text] London, AL-ZAHIRAH—Political observers in London yesterday saw the meeting held between Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati in New York the day before yesterday, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, as a sign of an improvement in Saudi-Iranian relations.

The meeting between the two foreign ministers came a week after Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Tehran. The aims of that visit, observers maintain, included mediation between Riyadh and Tehran and the preparation of an atmosphere in which cordial relations between the two countries could be established.

The meeting between Prince Sa'ud and Velayati has dispelled the doubts raised by some diplomatic circles in connection with the statement by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in which he said that he expected Iran to contribute some ground forces to the supporting forces facing Saddam Husayn's aggression, his occupation of Kuwait, and his threat to harm other Arab Gulf states.

The reason for these doubts was that Western diplomats thought that Saddam Husayn's initiative of a withdrawal from Iranian territory, a settlement with Tehran, and the renunciation of the causes of his September 1980 war with Iran would neutralize Iran or win it over to his side and help to break the economic blockade imposed on Iraq by the Security Council. Iran, however, has announced its adherence to the Security Council resolutions and commitment to the implementation of the sanctions against Baghdad.

King Fahd Answers Palestinian Support Message

LD0310142190 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Message from "a number of" Palestinians living in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to King Fahd followed by King Fahd's reply message; date not given—announcer-read]

[Excerpts] Gentlemen, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sau'd, may God protect him, has received a message from a number of Palestinians. The following is the text:

The Palestinian community has the honor to convey to you, O the custodian of the two holy mosques, on the occasion of the Kingdom's national day, its sincere feelings on this glorious occasion, reiterating its full support and absolute solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its readiness to volunteer and defend the Kingdom and the Muslims; sanctities in it, like the Saudi brethern because defending the Kingdom and Muslims' sanctities in it is every Muslim's individual duty.

The Palestinian community would like, furthermore, to renew its rejection for any aggression or any threat against the territory of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from any source or any party.

The Palestinian community would like, moreover, to remember with appreciation and gratefulness the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's embrace of the Palestinian cause from the outset. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian community thinks the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait has brought about division and schism and has harmed the Palestinian cause. Therefore, the Palestinian community urges Iraq to put the higher interests of Arabs and Muslims before any other consideration. This, however, will not be attained unless Iraq ends its occupation of Kuwait and allows legitimate authority to be restored to [the right] people so as Arab and Muslim unity may be restored anew, a matter that would allow them to be as one man against their Zionist enemy who has been weighing heavily on the al-Aqsa Mosque and the blessed [Palestinian] land.

Thus, the Palestinian community begs to perform its duty to defend sanctities, to show gratitude and gratefulness; the custodian of the two holy mosques to honor it to take part, under his wise leadership, in the defense of the Kingdom's territory side by side with its Saudi brothers to contribute in the confrontation of any aggression from any source or any party. [passage omitted]

The custodian of the two holy places has sent the following reply: Esteemed lawyer, Muhammad Sulayman al-Astal and his brothers, sons of Palestine, in Holy Mecca.

We have received your message in which you expressed your feelings and best wishes on the occasion of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's National Day. We thank you, furthermore, for your support, solidarity, and readiness to take part with your brothers the Saudis to defend the Kingdom's territory.

We appreciate, moreover, your assertions on the Kingdom's stance toward the Palestinian cause since the calamity of 1948. We reaffirm that such stances will remain as they always have been, lasting and firm, until, God willing, the fraternal Palestinian would return, under the leadership of its sincere and honorable sons, to his dear homeland.

As far as your assertions on the aggression of the Iraqi ruler are concerned, no doubt that such an aggression was a clear perfidy and a tyranny. It is in essence an attack on the Palestinian cause because its aims is to divide the ranks of this nation and transgress against its principles and ethics as well as squander and throw into disorder its resources.

We are confident that Allah, almighty, will make his true religion victorious and his true words loftier. His is the only Master and the best supporter. God be with you.

[Signed] The custodian of the two holy mosques, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

United Arab Emirates

Mitterrand Arrives in Abu Dhabi 3 Oct

JN0310204990 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2015 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Abu Dhabi on the first visit to the Gulf by a Western head of state. Mitterrand is due to hold talks with United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The French leader's two-day visit to the region includes a trip to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd. Mr. Mitterrand will also visit French troops deployed at the Red Sea base of Yanbu'.

The president's arrival came shortly after nine French nationals flew out of Baghdad aboard an Iraqi airplane and later arrived here in Amman. The nine men, who received their exit visas yesterday, were to travel to Paris later today. They were accompanied by Giles Monet, the general secretary of the Association for French-Iraqi Friendship who headed a private French delegation to Baghdad. Monet said Iraq was willing to consider the release of all Frenchmen if a senior French official visited Baghdad.

Also today, an Iraqi Airways plane carrying 173 Brazilians left Baghdad for Casablanca on its way to Rio de Janeiro.

Confers With Zayid

JN0310190890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1816 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Oct (WAKH)—A round of talks was held in Abu Dhabi this evening between His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, and French President Francois Mitterrand.

The French president arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on a visit to the United Arab Emirates. Heading those who welcomed him was His Highness Shaykh Zayid.

Holds 'Identical' View

JN0310215390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Oct (WAKH)—Following the session of talks held in Abu Dhabi this evening between United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and French President Francois Mitterrand, an official UAE source has stated that the two presidents reviewed developments in the current situation in the region in light of the continued Iraqi occupation of the sisterly State of Kuwait. They also discussed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the international efforts being made to solve the problem resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, efforts that are demanding the Iraqi forces' complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, and the return of the legitimate authority under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait, in implementation of the resolutions of the Arab summit, the Security Council, and the United Nations.

The source added that the two presidents hold identical views about the topics discussed during the talks within the framework of the strong relations of cooperation and friendship between the UAE and the French Republic.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid expressed his appreciation of the French Government's position on the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, and its concern to restore the normal situation that existed in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion.

Concludes Visit 4 Oct

JN0410095090 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Excerpt] His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand left the United Arab Emirates [UAE] today after a brief visit. His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, led those seeing him off. [passage omitted]

Netherlands Defense Minister Arrives 3 Oct

JN0310160490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Oct (WAKH)—Netherlands Defense Minister Relus Ter Beek and his delegation arrived in the United Arab Emirates today.

He was received upon arrival by Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces; Major General Matar Salim al-Zahiri, assistant chief of staff for supplies and administration; a number of senior Armed Forces officers; and Anthonie Dolleman, Netherlands ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

Meets With President

JN0310161090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Oct (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan received Netherlands Defense Minister Relus Ter Beek and his delegation at noon today in Abu Dhabi.

During the meeting they reviewed developments in the situation in the region in light of the continuing Iraqi occupation of fraternal Kuwait, as well as means of bolstering cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

Yemen

Al-Dali Discusses Gulf With Counterparts

JN2909150790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met yesterday at the United Nations headquarters in New York with Iranian Foreign Minister brother 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo, Spanish Foreign Minister Fancisco Fernandez-Ordonez, and Afghan Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul Wakil. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations between our country and each of their countries, and the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

The brother minister also met at the United Nations headquarters with Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, the permanent representative of Iraq to the United Nations. During the meeting, they reviewed relations between our country and the Republic of Iraq and the latest developments in the Gulf and Peninsula regions.

Salih, Mubarak Converse on Crisis by Phone

JN0210215690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] A telephone conversation was held today between brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. They exchanged opinions on the situation in the region and the importance of Arab and international efforts to bring about a peaceful solution to the crisis in a manner that will spare the region, pan-Arab security, and world peace the dangers of an escalation. They also reviewed bilateral ties and ways of bolstering and promoting them in order to serve joint interests and boost the status of the distinctive relationship between the two fraternal peoples.

Minister Carries Message to Mubarak on Region

JN2909151990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit, minister of state for parliamentary affairs, left for Cairo today on a visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

In a statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA', brother Rashid said he is carrying a message from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to his brother Egyptian President Husni Mubarak dealing with current developments in the Arab region and relations between our country and Egypt. He added that the message arises from the brother president's concern to strengthen fraternal relations binding the two fraternal countries—Yemen and Egypt—on the one hand, and is an expression of his appreciation for Egypt's role in supporting the immortal 26 September Revolution and reinforcing the republican struggle, on the other hand.

Saddam Husayn Tours Kuwait; Talks to Soldiers

JN0310184190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1816 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today visited the Governorate of Kuwait. His excellency walked the city streets and acquainted himself with its landmarks, which were resplendent, reflecting pride in the city's return to the motherland.

Following his excellency's arrival in downtown Kuwait, he chaired two meetings of military commanders and a number of officials. Local Government Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid attended the two meetings. His excellency then made a tour during which he met with a number of the valiant soldiers of truth, the sons of the valiant Iraqi Armed Forces.

His excellency talked to the fighters, who emphasized their constant preparedness to sacrifice themselves for the sake of great Iraq and the glorious Arab nation and to defeat all sinister attempts to desecrate our holy land.

Nine French Nationals Leave Baghdad 3 Oct

JN0310115290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Pursuant to leader President Saddam Husayn's order allowing a number of Iraq's French guests to leave for their country or to stay in Iraq if they so desire, nine French nationals left Baghdad today accompanied by the French-Iraqi Friendship Society delegation.

In statements to INA, the departing guests expressed appreciation for the generous hospitality and full care they were accorded by the Iraqi Government and people during their stay. They described President Saddam Husayn's initiative of giving them the choice to leave for their country or to stay in Iraq as a humanitarian gesture that reflects Iraq's love of peace in the region and the whole world.

Ministry Affirms Commitment of Food for Foreigners

JN0310195990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1910 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] A responsible source at the Ministry of Trade has reacted to the statement made to REUTER by a British Foreign Office spokesman, saying:

In a statement to INA on 29 September 1990, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih announced that the ration card system in force in the country as a result of the imposition of the unjust blockade against Iraq ensured that people would have access to the basic and necessary foodstuffs on an equal basis and without discrimination. In his statement, the minister added that Iraqis, Arabs, diplomatic missions, and foreigners working in Iraq, as well as foreigners Iraq is hosting, would benefit from ration cards. The minister went on to say that there had been no instructions to deny foreign nationals access to the ration card system, as some hostile and suspect anti-Iraqi media were saying to cover up for the crime of the imperialist, Zionist, and agent forces: the occupation of the holy lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], the domination of the region by U.S. imperialist invading troops, and the exposing of the security, sovereignty, and peace of the Arab and Islamic homeland to the risk of an all-out and destructive war.

The trade minister's statement repeatedly made the headlines in the newscasts of hostile and friendly radio stations alike immediately after the statement was carried by INA and foreign news agency correspondents in Baghdad, including that of the REUTER news agency.

Every rational-minded and honorable person in the world who listened to and read the statement made by the trade minister must have seen the clarity of Iraq's firm position that it would honor its humanitarian and international responsibilities toward foreign nationals living on its territory involving their right to have access to food without having to suffer discrimination in favor of Iraqi nationals.

Nonetheless, the representatives of imperialist and Zionist quarters and their media machine, as has been their habit, persist in their pursuit of twisted methods. They unleash reckless lies with the aim of misrepresenting facts and preventing these facts from becoming known to the world because great Iraqi leader His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, through his inspired thoughts and unremitting firmness, inflicted a media and psychological defeat on the Bush administration and all those who succumbed to his imperialist domination.

REUTER quoted a British Foreign Office spokesman as saying that Iraq has to ensure access to food supplies to foreign nationals and that the Foreign Office summoned the Iraqi ambassador in London and asked him to offer an explanation on the announcement that food rations to foreign nationals would stop as of next Monday [8 October].

The spokesman added that Iraq's obligations toward foreign nationals in Iraq are unequivocally clear and include ensuring that foreign nationals will not be denied access to food.

The contents of the statements made by the British Foreign Office spokesman confirm the soundness of what we have announced in the past: that the forces controlling the United Nations crudely violated international laws and norms as well as human rights when they adopted the aggressive resolution to starve the whole people of Iraq and that they are now moving to make the issue of food for foreign nationals another miserable card in the escalation of their aggressive scheme against Iraq and the Arab and Islamic nation, thus demonstrating their racist and chauvinistic nature.

We reiterate that Iraq will not deprive foreign nationals of food as long as they are the guests of lofty Iraq and its noble leader Saddam Husayn and as long as food is available to us.

The British Foreign Office spokesman and his ilk should know that asking the country exposed to an unfair economic embargo to secure food supplies for foreigners lays bare an unjust imperialist mentality. Those who adopted the unfair economic boycott and embargo decision will bear the consequences of their resolution. Such a miserable request should be addressed to the arrogant criminals and the centers of power that control the Security Council, not to Iraq, which is the target of a criminal imperialist aggression.

Guard Withdrawal Attributed to Dissidence

LD0310135290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0730 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] London, 3 Oct 90, SPA—Sources at the National Committees for the Salvation of Iraq have said that Saddam Husayn has completely withdrawn Republican Guard forces from Kuwait and deployed them in Safwan and south al-Basrah. They attributed this to widespread discontent and dissidence inside the Iraqi Armed Forces and against Saddam Husayn.

The sources pointed to the existence of widespread disinformation concerning the reality of the military and political situations inside Iraq, where the regime of Saddam Husayn is making a concentrated effort to jam radio stations, lest the truth reach the Iraqi people.

The sources in the National Committees for the Salvation of Iraq said that a group of commanders of the Republican Guard had requested aerial assistance for the forces deployed inside Kuwait. Their request was rejected by Saddam Husayn, however, who responded by withdrawing those forces from Kuwait despite the opposition of the commanders, who distanced themselves from that measure. They [the sources] confirmed that among those commanders is the commander of the forces [as received], Staff General Iyyad Fatih Khalifah al-Rawi; Staff General Ibrahim Abd al-Sattar Muhammad, the commander of the Hamurabi forces in the Republican Guard; and Staff General Azhar Sa'dallah Khalil, commander of the Banukhz Nasr in the Guard.

Hungarian Reporter Updates Baghdad Situation

LD0210134690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Our foreign affairs editor, Gyorgy Onodi, is having a telephone conversation with our reporters Jozsef Orosz, who is in Baghdad.

[Onodi] Our reporter Jozsef Orosz is at present in Baghdad, and now for the first time after several days, he has managed to make contact with Budapest. Please tell us what the situation is like in Baghdad? Are the people troubled; do they expect war?

[Orosz] First of all, I must say that Baghdad is a "shop window city." At least it is the shop window part which is shown to foreigners and strangers; they can only see the shop window parts. Supplies can be said to be normal; even the fact that people in long lines stand for hours for bread and sugar can be said to be normal. Apart from this, there is food. It is not possible to say, except from news and unconfirmed news from the countryside, that the situation there is much worse.

[Onodi] Are they using up the strategic reserves, or are they receiving food and other goods from somewhere abroad? So, are there countries which breach the embargo?

[Orosz] A day and a half ago, the first deputy of the minister pf information said, in reply to my question, that there are ample food reserves in Iraq and they are not forced to touch and mobilize their strategic reserves to supply the country. Of course, it is not possible to know if he spoke the truth. He, the first deputy of the ministry of information, thought they could last [word indistinct] not only food, but also military force. As he said, they are ready to fight, if necessary for a thousand years, against the intruders, the Americans.

[Onodi] But, after all, they are the intruders. They occupied ....

[Orosz, interrupting] I do not wish to reply to this question, because the telephone lines are censored, so if I said to you yes, or no, or elaborated on this in greater detail, it could happen that the telephone lines would be immediately cut, as this happened to my fellow reporters.

[Onodi] A very interesting subject exercised [as heard] the papers here in recent days, namely that there are some kinds of secret contacts between Israel and Iraq, some secret negotiations. What can be heard about this in Baghdad?

[Orosz] About secret negotiations, absolutely nothing. The daily papers and all accessible information say that apart from the Americans and the unified military forces, the other most important enemy is Israel. Of course, it is possible to make some inferences about secret contacts being made, but there are no tangible, concrete signs of it. I must repeat this.

Airline Confirms Passenger Flights 'Unchanged'

JN2809072390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—Iraqi Airways sources have said that in light of the Security Council resolution imposing an air embargo against Iraq and the explanations given by the Air Cargo Organization [name as published] that the embargo does not include passenger flights to and from Iraq, flights between Amman and Baghdad remain unchanged.

As the case was before the embargo, there will be two flights, one in the morning and the other in the evening.

IRA-Iraq 'Terrorist' Agreement Reported

NC2909082190 Cairo MENA in English 0727 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 29 (MENA)—The British security authorities have received information through their secret organs to the effect that the organization of the terrorist Irish Republican Army (IRA) is about to sign an agreement with Iraq with a view to coordinating their terrorist actvities and operations against British targets, "AL-ITTIHAD" newspaper, quoting responsible British sources, said today.

The British Government closely follows up the cooperation between the two sides, especially after it recently received positive signs from Baghdad on such cooperation, the sources said.

The British authorities intend, immediately after they complete the uncovering of these new relations, to address an official warning to Iraq against the consequences of its support of such an organization, the sources said.

Paper Urges Perez de Cuellar To Speak Out

JN0210134190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0857 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has urged the UN secretary general to express his opinion on what is taking place at the UN Security Council.

In its editorial today, the paper says that, as a result of U.S. hegemony, the council has been turned into an obedient tool to implement Washington's aggressive military option.

The paper adds, asking: If the UN Security Council was not turned into a war council, then how can we understand its exclusion of resolutions that give weight to the political option for settling the crisis; and its adoption of resolutions whose contents serve the military option?

AL-THAWRAH [as received] stresses that what condemns the UN Security Council and explains the collusion in its work is the statement made by the foreign ministers of its five permanent member states following their rejection of the peace initiative, to the effect that "the secretary general did not insist we change our position." The paper points to these ministers' attempt to blame Perez de Cuellar and to accuse him of being negligent in performing his duty when they said: "The secretary general is fully aware of the difficulty of his mission in Baghdad."

The paper warns: If all these esteemed masters have conspired against the UN secretary general, then it means that the international community is being exposed to one of the most serious turning points in its history, namely, turning its greatest institution into a den for plotting against it.

Paper Praises Cuban Position at Security Council

JN0210123290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi paper has praised Cuba's courageous and principled stance in confronting and rejecting America's pressure and blackmail. AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Cuba has adopted a clear-cut principled position at the Security Council. It did not agree on the resolutions that were drafted in the name of the Council; it did not submit to the various methods used by the U.S. Administration to dictate its will on the international community; and it rejected the American logic of blackmail despite the 30-year economic embargo imposed on it by America in 1961 and which is still being imposed.

AL-JUMHURIYAH noted that Cuba's principled rejection of the American logic of blackmail is a faithful expression of the position of the Third World countries vis-a-vis the aggressive American policy directed against these nations. If, for one reason or another, many of these nations did not find the opportunity to express their stands in an explicit and principled way, the Cuban people have found this opportunity because of the presence of a regime that was neither blown away by the winds of change that have shaken others nor was it subjugated to the bargains of its real enemies who want to control the world.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: The sons of the Arab people together with believers and good people everywhere, who are looking at the lofty and strong Iraq while defending the principles and values in which they all believe, feel great pride because Cuba is adopting such a position against the aggressive American policy.

Concluding its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH greets the people and government of Cuba who rejected the American blackmail as they had earlier refused to submit to Washington's hegemony. The paper asserts that the Arabs and Muslims everywhere cannot forget this position either now or in the future.

Workers Condemn U.S. Actions, UN Resolutions

JN0310181290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—The general conference of the Arab Commerce Workers Union, which lasted two days, concluded its work in Baghdad today.

The final statement of the conference condemned the imperialist, American, Atlantic, and Zionist aggression on the Arabian Peninsula which is a flagrant threat to the security of the Arab nation and its sovereignty. The statement called for the immediate and rapid evacuation of the invasion forces and the cleansing of Arab and Muslim holy sites in Holy Mecca and the great prophet's al-Madinah.

The statement denounced the economic embargo imposed on Iraq and called on the world states and organizations and organs to condemn and break the embargo, and to condemn the Arab regimes that joined the invasion forces, supported them, and provided them with facilities.

The final statement also denounced the unfair UN Security Council resolutions against Iraq which are in fact the resolutions of the U.S. Adminstration and its imperialist allies.

The Arab commerce workers called for a boycott of all products of the United States and other foreign states which have joined the hostile forces.

They called on commerce workers unions in the Arab countries to carry out infomational activities, mobilize efforts to expose the dimensions of the imperialist aggression on Iraq and the Arab nation, condemn it, and intensify contacts with similar organizations in foreign states to clarify the essence of the aggression and its unfair designs.

The conference recommendations stressed the importance of the commerce workers and all Arab workers confronting and breaking the economic embargo on Iraq by the commerce workers and all Arab workers, and forming volunteer committees to defend the Arab and Muslim holy sites.

The participants earlier elected Naji 'Abbud from Iraq as the union's secretary, the deputy secretary from Yemen, and the members of the General Secretariat from Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, Algeria, Palestine, and Tunisia. They also elected the president of the Central Council from Jordan, and his deputy from Libya for the next term which will last four years.

They also elected alternate members from Morocco, Somalia, Djibouti, Mauritania, and Eritrea.

Commerce delegations from Tunis, Palestine, Jordan, Yemen, Eritrea, Sudan, and Iraq joined in the conference as well as officials from the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions.

Arab Commerce Workers March to U.S. Embassy

JN0310155890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—The participants in the third conference of Arab Commerce Workers Union have denounced the hostile position of the United States and its allies against Iraq and the great Arab nation.

During a protest march to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, they condemned in the name of millions of Arab commerce workers the hostile U.S. practices against the brave Iraqi people, foremost being depriving its children of food, milk, and medicine, which goes against international charters and laws and most basic human values.

In a protest memorandum presented to the U.S. Embassy, they stressed that all Arabs and honest Muslims view with deep resentment and anger the foreign military invasion of the Arab holy land. They also side with lofty Iraq in one trench in fulfilling the holy jihad call for the liberation of the holy land from the invading forces, the enemies of Arabism and Islam.

Paper Warns of Defeat for Aggressors

JN0310120090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that those who have chosen to encroach on Iraq's people and their interests have chosen the road to destruction.

In an editorial today, the paper says: Iraq has entered the great battle against the U.S.-Zionist invasion of the land of sanctities, having confidence in its abilities and capabilities, bearing the banners of Jihad, and convinced of the support of all believers throughout the world.

The paper stresses that the Iraqi people have the experience that provides them with great ability to fight and that has made them the strongest of people against threats, blackmail, and pressure.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Iraq is leading millions of Arabs and Muslims who support it and have volunteered to fight beside it, and who are ready to pursue the evildoers and aggressors who desecrated the land of sanctities and hatched plots to attack Iraq.

Concluding, the paper says: All the aggressors' targets, and their own countries, will come under the hammer of decisive punishment if any one of them dares to attack Iraq, which is leading the gathering of the believers in this decisive battle that will change many equations in relations among peoples, and defeat and destroy the sick wishes of George Bush and his allies, Husni, and the betrayer of the two holy mosques.

INA Criticizes LE FIGARO's Mubarak Interview

JN0210133390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1149 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Commenting on the statements made by Husni [Mubarak] to the French paper LE FIGARO yesterday, the Arab affairs editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY writes: Husni was never so naive and shallow as he was in the LE FIGARO interview which was published yesterday, Monday. He still thinks he is clever in pursuing the method of instigating the United States to strike Iraq instead of calling for a peaceful Arab resolution. This insistence on instigating war reveals a dominant fear of the what could happen to him in the future, such as the fate that met al-Sadat. In fact, Husni is so terrified that he belittles the Arab masses' attitude toward the U.S. occupation of the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], and tries to ignore the masses' presence, effectiveness, influence, and the punishment they could infilct on him and other traitors of the nation.

Avoiding the facts has become his main trait. For instance, he ignores the Palestinian people's heroic stand in solidarity with Iraq, a stand which the Palestinians in the occupied territory are expressing daily by their demonstrations, volunteering campaigns, and collection of donations, food, and medicine for the people of Iraq. The statements made by Palestinian officials from different organizations have particularly infuriated Husni, his master Bush, and his friends in occupied Palestine. Husni has presented an erroneous idea of pan-Arab relations among the sons of the one nation when he said he does not listen to what is being said in the Arab Maghreb. What kind of head of state is this who does not listen and still dares to admit it? But this does not surprise us. True, he does not listen. He only listens to what he is being told and ordered to do.

When speaking about Arabism, Husni denies the Arabism of those Arab states with lesser populations. He thus confirms his erroneous understanding of pan-Arab principles which are based on common history, destiny, identity, and aims and not on figures. Who said that the 55 million Egyptians share the view of Husni, the ally of the Zionists, and other Camp David supporters? Our noble Arab people in Egypt do not differ in their stand from the sons of the nation in rejecting the presence of U.S. occupiers in the holy land in which Husni played the role of the humble servant.

When he talks about the damage that was caused to them, he does not hesitate to beg his masters, the Americans, and his friends, the oil princes, in a shameless manner that hurts Egypt's honor and the pride of its great people, ignoring, at the same time, that his masters and friends are his source of plight and the principal reason for Egypt's continued economic crisis and its heavy debts. They have given crumbs to Egypt and Husni only to keep him in a continuous need of them. They have given him nothing but empty promises.

Despite all the services Husni has rendered to his masters, the Americans continued the policy of humiliation and suspended the bribery they promised, slapping him in the face, as put by one of his aides, when Congress refused to cancel his military debts. Yet, we find him defending his masters' decision and using their need for him as an electoral tactic. He was also so impudent and envious that he considered it improper for the world to speak about Iraq's power, its advanced weapons, and its ability to destroy the aggressors. He has also turned into an official spokesman for Zionism, who talks about the power of the Zionist entity to frighten the Arabs with that power.

We tell Husni: If you feel you are small and fearful of your masters and their Zionist allies, Iraq and its lofty people and the faithful Arab and Islamic gathering supporting it do not fear them—and they are ready to fight them until victory, which is close, God willing.

Concluding his comment, the Arab affairs editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY said: It is really ridiculous that Husni alleges that the PLO headquarters are not in Tunisia, as is known and declared. He also claims that the Iraqi Army has killed a number of Egyptians, imagining that by this he that can incite Egypt's masses against Iraq and its heroic army, which are a source of pride for the Arabs, including Egypt's masses. If he is really concerned about the sons of Egypt, why then does he push them to the first frontline in the Arabian Peninsula and agree that the Americans back him. If he is concerned about the dignity of Egypt's sons, why then does he make the sons of Egypt a shield for those who concocted plots against Egypt and its army, and who cut off the noses of the Egyptian officers during the battles that raged in defense of the Yemeni revolution? Has Husni forgotten the graves of the martyrs of the Egyptian Army on the slopes of Yemen's mountains and its valleys—martyrs who were killed with the bullets of the Al Sa'ud and their supporters?

We tell Husni: This manner of dealing with the Arabs and the world will only make him a object of ridicule and disdain among the sons of our people in Egypt.

News Agency Rejects MENA 'Lies'

JN0310174190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1712 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] The Arab affairs editor at the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has commented on the lies propagated by the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY [MENA] on the alleged existence of contacts between the Zionist entity and Iraq through mediators. He added: We were not surprised by the fabricated reports leaked by Egypt's MENA because this news agency lost its credibility after it turned into a tool expressing the views of Israel, U.S. imperialism, and betrayers of the nation such as the betrayer of the two holy mosques and Husni, and also because of its dissemination of news reports that do not deserve any reaction.

Ministry Again Rejects Egyptian Murder Reports

JN0310184890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman has told INA the following:

The Foreign Ministry has taken cognizance of the Egyptian interior minister's statements published in the Cairo AL-AHRAM on 2 October 1990 in which he claimed that the bodies of 995 Egyptian men had arrived from Iraq since 1 February 1990. The minister also claimed that medical checkups conducted on the bodies showed that 60 percent of them showed signs that they had died as a result of attacks.

On 26 September we refuted the allegations that the Egyptian interior minister propagated on 22 September. The Foreign Ministry would like to show our fraternal Egyptian people once again that since February 1990 and up to the end of September 1990, the total of Egyptian deaths in Iraq numbered 351 and not 995 as the interior minister of the Egyptian regime claims. The causes of most of these deaths were chronic illnesses shown in the death certificates sent with the bodies. As for the deaths caused by quarrels, they totaled only eight. These murders were documented in official memoranda sent to the Egyptian Embassy in Baghdad.

As for the Egyptian minister's claim that the bodies arriving since 2 August 1990 totaled 140 per month, we would like to say that this is also a cheap lie. The facts show that 46 bodies were shipped in August, 26 others in September. All of this is documented in official memoranda sent to the Egyptian Embassy in Baghdad. Each corpse is sent to Egypt under the embassy's own supervision.

It is to be recalled that the total of Egyptian deaths in Iraq has been less than the total reported in previous years. The total of deaths has gone down by more than half. The total of deaths in 1988 was 977, while it was 880 in 1989. These deaths involve men and women of all ages.

The cheap methods to stir up trouble and cause agitation pursued by the Camp David regime, the agent of Zionism and imperialism, is a desperate and exposed one that cannot deceive our fraternal people in Arab Egypt whose honor, values, and militant history have been stabbed by the Husni regime which sent its mercenaries to launch an aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation under the U.S. flag which is stained with Palestinian and Arab blood.

The Egyptian brothers will continue to live in all Iraqi governorates enjoying the care of their Iraqi brothers and that of their militant leadership. Deception will be of no use to agents. The propagation of lies is a feeble stratagem.

Japanese Deputy Meets National Assembly Speaker

OW0110053090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0336 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 30 KYODO—Japanese Komeito member Wakako Hironaka held talks on Sunday with Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of Iraq's National Assembly, over the issue of foreign nationals detained in Baghdad.

In the 90-minute meeting, the Japanese lawmaker attempted to hand Salih a message from her female colleagues in both Houses of the Diet calling for immediate and unconditional release of all foreigners detained in Iraq.

Hironaka also tried to hand over a similar message adopted at the plenary meeting of a World Woman Parliamentarians' Peace League to the Iraqi legislature leader. But Salih refused to accept these messages, saying Hironaka should hand them to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn if she wanted to meet him during her visit to Baghdad. It was unknown whether Salih then promised to arrange for a meeting with the Iraqi President for her.

Salih declined to allow the Japanese parliamentarian to meet Japanese captives in Iraq. At least 141 Japanese nationals are believed to have been held at strategic military and industrial facilities in Iraq. They are being used as human shields to deter potential attacks by the U.S.-led forces built up in the Gulf following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

Japanese Delegation Meets With Jasim

JN0310202290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Office, today met with Osamu Yatabi, head of the parliamentary delegation of the Japan Socialist Party and member of the Japanese House of Councillors.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim spoke about the developments in the region and the threat to world security and peace and the desecration of the holy places in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] caused by the American and foreign forces' invasion of the Arabian Gulf. Jasim declared that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative constitutes the basis to resolve all problems in the region in a just, comprehensive, and balanced way.

He reiterated the capability of our noble people and their brave army under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, to confront and abort the conspiracy carried out by the United States and its allies against Iraq.

Osamu Yatabi stated that negotiations and dialogue are necessary to resolve all problems facing the region away from threats to prevent a destructive war.

Confers With Speaker

JN0410072590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met last night with Osamu Yatabi, head of the parliamentary delegation of the Japan Socialist Party and member of the Japanese House of Councillors. Mr. Salih reviewed the role of the United States in escalating the situation in the region and in creating justifications for its occupation of the sacred Arab lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and its control of oil supplies to serve its hostile objectives against the Arab nation.

He stressed that the United States implemented the economic blockade against Iraq before the issuance of the Security Council resolution and sent its forces to

Saudi Arabia before the adoption of any resolution by the United Nations. He pointed out that the occupation of Najd and Hejaz by U.S. Forces has escalated the situation and prevented an Arab solution to the region's problems.

Mr. Osamu Yatabi said the Japan Socialist Party and the Japanese Constitution are in favor of solving international problems peacefully, which means opposition to the use of force and military confrontation to solve any problem.

Ramadan Meets With Tunisian Delegation

JN0410091090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received today the delegation of the higher Tunisian committee for the support of Iraq, headed by Mohamed Trabulsi, assistant secretary general of the Tunisian general workers federation.

Mr. Ramadan stressed that the Arab nation is not weak and no longer an easy target for those who have designs in it. The colonization of Arabs is over, he said, adding that this is a stage of strong Arab defiance, a stage of jihad and martyrdom to safeguard Arab rights to their land, wealth, and masses.

He said that, as the aggression, military escalation, and illegal and unethical blockade by the plotters and their slaves and allies against Iraq intensify, the determination of the Iraqis and their Arab and Muslim brothers to defend gets stronger, and they insist on achieving the great victory over those who plotted against the Arab and Muslim sanctities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], which have been turned into a field for the American colonialists and their allies.

The Tunisian delegation conveyed the greetings of the Tunisian masses—organizations, parties, youth, women, and trade associations—to President Saddam Husayn and the pride of all the Arabs in his Arab leadership, which has become a symbol for all Arabs.

The delegation expressed the view that all free Arabs stand in the front trench with Iraq and that the capabilities of the Arab masses can defend strong and victorious Iraq.

Ramadan Leaves for Amman With Message for King

JN0310212090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad for Amman today on an official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he will convey a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Husayn on the future of bilateral relations, the developments in the Arab area, and the dangers of the foreign presence in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] for the Arab nation. He added that he will discuss with the brothers in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan earnest and new means that will reinforce the nature of the exemplary relations between Iraq and Jordan, relations that are being entrenched every day and which have become more cohesive.

Ramadan praised Jordan's genuine pan-Arab stand expressed by its Arab masses of all sectors and affiliations. This stand is an extension of and is linked with the stand of the Arab masses who are aware of their pan-Arab responsibilities in confronting all links of conspiracy and treason. He affirmed Iraq's concern that a comprehensive and complete peace be achieved. He also declared that Iraq will not relinquish its rights because relinquishing the legitimate rights means capitulation. And Iraq, he added, rejects capitulation and welcomes a just and comprehensive peace.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that the preparations of Iraq together with the Arab and Muslim masses will achieve victory over all forces of arrogance and aggression led by America, Zionism, and their allies from the defeatist Arab rulers.

He was seen off at the airport by a number of ministers.

Mauritanian Minister Leaves Baghdad 2 Oct

LD0310101190 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Major Cheickh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation [MCNS] and minister of interior, post, and telecommunications, left Baghdad today after he had delivered a message from Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the MCNS and head of state, to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

French Friendship Society Delegation Departs

JN0310150890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—A delegation representing the French-Iraqi Friendship Society left Baghdad this morning following a two-week visit.

Gilles Monet, head of the delegation and secretary general of the society, described the noble gesture of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to allow a number of the French nationals hosted in Iraq to leave Baghdad today as a humanitarian act that reflects the president's desire to establish peace and security in the region and also to keep the specter of a destructive war at bay. He added that this gesture would open up new prospects in the bilateral ties between the two friendly states.

Monet declared that he would convey to the French people the real image of the Iraqi people and leadership as he saw it: an image embodying the courageous pan-Arab positions of the Iraqi people and their just and legitimate defense against all forms of foreign intervention.

Monet said that he discussed ways to develop friendly bilateral ties, as well as regional developments, with Iraqi officials.

Islamic Leader Avows Support, Departs

JN0210164390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1556 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Oct (INA)—Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis, and his delegation left Baghdad this afternoon following an eight-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Shaykh al-Tamimi said: I have had the honor of meeting with President Saddam Husayn, the grand mujahid who is leading the gathering of the faithful and is supported by all good Muslims.

He added that his visit to Iraq has been one of God's graces, because it has enabled him to become acquainted with the historic transformation experienced by the great Iraqi people and of the ever-growing spirit of determination to confront the invading forces of infidelity.

He affirmed that he and the organization he represents, as well as those who support him, declare they are volunteering to wage the crucial battle alongside Iraq to liberate the holy lands from the claws of the imperialist-Zionist invasion.

Belgian Defense Minister Meets Zayid 30 Sep

JN0110150590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, received a message from King Baudouin of Belgium on the situation in the region and the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The message was conveyed by Belgian Defense Minister Guy Coeme when he was received by his excellency this evening.

Saddam Congratulates PRC on National Day

JN0110110590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to PRC President Yang Shangkun on his country's national day. The cable reads:

On the PRC's national day, it pleases us to send to your excellency on behalf of Iraq and in my name our best congratulations wishing you good health, the Chinese people more progress, and your country prosperity.

Ministry Congratulates German People on Unity

JN0310092990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Oct (INA)—Iraq has congratulated the friendly German people on their reunification. A Foreign Ministry spokesman told INA that Iraq welcomes German unity, expresses satisfaction with this historical achievement, and congratulates the friendly German people.

The spokesman stressed that the Arab nation, which is suffering from the tragedies of divisions, is very well qualified to understand the deep suffering of the German people since they were divided after World War II in order to serve the strategies and selfish interests of the major powers. The spokesman added: The Arabs, who aspire for their greater pan-Arab unity, sympathize with the German nation and view this achievement as a realization of progress and peace and a prelude to better relations with Iraq and the Arab nation.

Exchange of Kuwaiti Dinar Said Confined to Iraq

JN2609153490 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1403 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 26 Sep (PETRA)—A responsible source at the Central Bank of Jordan has stated that, in the light of contacts made with al-Rafidayn Bank in Amman and the Central Bank of Iraq in Baghdad on exchanging the Kuwaiti dinar for the Iraqi dinar, it has been learned that the regulations of the Central Bank of Iraq stipulate that the exchange process, which ends on 6 October, is confined to those who reside inside Iraq.

Levi on U.S. Visit, German Unification

TA0310191390 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Interview with David Levi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor at Ben-Gurion Airport, "upon Levi's return from the United States today"—videotaped in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Levi] The Israeli Government is entitled and authorized to make its own decisions, without anyone's approval; nor does it need to notify anybody in advance to make decisions. This principle has been accepted. Therefore, I am very glad about the agreement reached with the United States on the loan guarantee for the absorption of immigrants. It was not easy; there were long hours and nights of arguments, but we finally achieved what we wanted.

[Ganor] Mr. Levi, what was the highlight of your visit? Could this be it?

[Levi] Only in part. We have reached understanding and coordination with the United States. We agreed on the supply of Israel's needs; on a joint examination, by a joint Israeli-U.S. team, of Israel's future needs, so that Israel's qualitative superiority will not be impaired; and also, on a package of economic and military components for Israel.

We have forgotten that it was only very recently that we could hardly speak to one another. Now, thank God, there is order, understanding, and openness between Israel and the United States in this sphere. As for other countries, have we not made a significant achievement in our relations with the USSR? There is a total change there! We are not faced with the same demands anymore, and Israel is more understood than on the defensive.

[Ganor] Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, the German unification issue was received with mixed feelings in Israel. What do you have to say on the issue?

[Levi] This is natural. Am I separate from this land and people? Each of us shares the feeling of remembrance of what our people underwent during the Holocaust. We can only say a prayer for the future and hope that this unification will be the test of true democracy, of German commitment to the Jewish people, of German conduct that will prove that the lesson was learned and the commitment exists so that past events will never recur, with regard to feelings and anti-Semitism, rather than in practice. This will be the test of the government unifying Germany today. The Jewish people's feeling is that nothing on earth, no compensation whatsoever, can erase or change the pain or the burden that every Jew carries in his mind and heart. We are looking forward to the future with hope.

Fatah 'Terrorist' Cell Captured in Nabulus

TA0310195090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] In Nabulus, security forces have captured a Fatah terrorist cell that called itself the Revolutionary Defense Establishment. The leader of the cell and another member of the gang were caught armed with pistols in a hideout in the city. Cell members were responsible for scores of violent attacks on Nabulus residents they suspected of cooperating with Israel. The gang was led by 29-year-old Nasir Khalil Sayih. A 21-year-old, Muhammad Butbul, was also captured, and he is suspected of taking part in the murder of two Nabulus residents.

A 17-year-old, Akram Basil, from the village of Yattah near Hebron died today of a gunshot wound suffered in a clash with troops last month. Basil died in Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital.

Janin remains under curfew today, following a violent clash yesterday in which three local residents were killed by Army fire.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 3 October adds that "a donation drive for food, clothes, medicines, and money was launched in Israeli Arab villages today on behalf of the al-Burayj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The drive was initiated by HADASH, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, following a visit to the camp by HADASH Knesset members."]

AL-FAJR Assails Restored Ties With Soviets

TA0310153190 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 3 Oct 90 p 1

[Editorial: "When Moscow Jumps in the Wrong Direction!"]

[Text] The Soviet Union made a "qualitative" political jump in the completely wrong direction from its known political stance toward the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict in general, when it abandoned its conditions for restoring diplomatic relations, which it severed with Israel on 5 June 1967. The restoration of these relations, on the consular level, was realized several days ago without the achievement of any of the Soviet Union's previous conditions. The Soviet Union is now ready to move toward consolidating its ties with Israel in various fields. This, in the final analysis, is expected to serve its new policy of openness, which is no longer concerned with the causes and rights of nations in this region and the entire world.

Moscow chose a baffling time to restore its consular relations with Israel, specifically exploiting the current Gulf crisis. Despite the fact that the new order launched by Mikhail Gorbachev had begun devoting attention to this Soviet-Israeli restoration of ties more than a year ago—under cover of maintaining old Russian properties, resolving some pending matters between the two sides, and so forth—the agreement on restoring diplomatic-consular relations between them, amid the gravity of the Gulf crisis, is a further reflection of the collapse of the Soviet position and the abandonment of the Soviet Union's old friends in a way that will make certain that these friends will be seriously harmed.

The Soviet Union could have attempted to exploit its old position in the interest of a peaceful political settlement of the Gulf crisis and could have postponed restoration of its consular ties with Israel at least until this settlement was achieved. Presumably, this settlement would have opened the doors to the political settlements of other problems and crises in the region, foremost of all being the Palestinian problem. The Soviet Union, however, moved contrary to this possibility, adding, for its part, new complications and dangers.

Ambassador-Designate to U.S. Leaves Knesset

TA0310130990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Oct 90 p 2

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[Excerpts] Ambassador-designate Zalman Shoval took leave of the Knesset yesterday and prepared to replace outgoing Ambassador to Washington Moshe Arad.

Shoval is due to take up his post on October 15. He will be briefed by Arad in Europe after the Succot holiday. [passage omitted]

Former Likud MK [Knesset Member] and chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, Hayim Kaufman, replaces Shoval in the Knesset.

East Jerusalem Grenade Injures Seven

TA0310184490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] A hand grenade was thrown at two border policemen near the Damascus Gate in East Jerusalem this afternoon. They sustained light to moderate injuries and were evacuated to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital. Five Arab locals were also hurt, and they were brought to al-Maqasid Hospital. Approximately 100 persons were detained. Our correspondent reports that the policemen were on a foot patrol near the city wall. Al-Sultan Sulayman Street, the main street in East Jerusalem, was closed to traffic for a short while.

Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu Arrives in Amman

JN0310164290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu arrived in Amman this evening on a two-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, he will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials on bilateral relations and the situation in the Gulf.

The Japanese guest was accorded an official reception. Prime Minister Mudar Badran and senior officials received Mr. Kaifu.

Officials talks between the Jordanian and Japanese sides are scheduled to begin at the Prime Ministry this evening.

Received by Crown Prince

JN0310185790 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1805 GMT 90 3 Oct 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received in his office at the Royal Court this evening Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and the accompanying delegation.

His highness briefed the guest on the efforts undertaken by Jordan to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis based on international legitimacy. His highness also explained the harm done to the Jordanian economy as a result of Jordan's adherence to the UN resolutions concerning the economic embargo on Iraq. His highness said the harm has extended to all sectors of the Jordanian economy as a result of the deep humanitarian and organic relations between the economy of Iraq and Kuwait and that of Jordan.

For his part, the guest prime minister expressed his appreciation for Jordan's adherence to the UN resolutions in spite of the manifold difficulties Jordan is suffering. He said the Japanese Government intends to provide urgent aid to Jordan to overcome these problems and to extend medium- and long-term aid in cooperation with international institutions to deal with medium and long-term repercussions.

Concerning the crisis the region is experiencing, the guest prime minister expressed his belief that efforts have to be maintained to find a peaceful solution to the crisis based on Security Council resolutions and the provisions and principles of the UN Charter.

The meeting was attended by his excellency the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political adviser, members of the delegation accompanying the guest prime minister, and the Japanese ambassador in Amman.

Meets With Badran on Crisis

JN0310200590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1914 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] A round of talks was held this evening at the Prime Ministry between the Jordanian side led by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the Japanese side led by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

The prime minister first welcomed the Japanese guest and his delegation. He praised the relations existing between the two friendly countries and highly valued the Japanese prime minister's visit to the Kingdom in the present circumstances, saying that this reflects the depth of the friendship between the two countries and the two friendly peoples.

For his part, Mr. Kaifu expressed complete satisfaction with his visit to Jordan and appreciation for the opportunity made available for him to meet with His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials. He also asserted that his country wanted to promote relations of friendship and cooperation with Jordan in all fields.

The talks revolved around the developments in the Gulf crisis. The two sides emphasized the need to reach a political solution to the crisis as the best means to finding a way out in a manner that would remove the possibilities of an explosion in the region. The two sides also stressed the need to find a peaceful settlement to the Middle East problem through an international conference and the implementation of Security Council resolutions in this regard.

The prime minister explained to the Japanese prime minister the economic difficulties Jordan has been suffering, before and after the Gulf crisis, in addition to the extra burdens resulting from the arrival of thousands of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait on their way back to their countries. He also explained the outcome of Jordan's compliance with the Security Council resolutions related to an economic embargo on Iraq.

Mr. Kaifu expressed concern about the economic hardships Jordan is suffering and appreciation for Jordan's continuous efforts to maintain its progress and prosperity. He said Japan will support the efforts of economic and social development in Jordan and will continue to work to achieve peace and stability and prosperity in the Middle East.

The talks were attended by the members of the Jordanian and Japanese delegations.

Speaks With Badran at Dinner

JN0310215990 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2110 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran this evening held a dinner banquet in honor of Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and the accompanying delegation.

In a speech delivered at the dinner banquet, Badran said: Jordan bases its foreign policy on essential constants that are established on the sublime principles contained in the UN Charter and enjoy world consensus. On this basis, our position on the conflicts from which our region is suffering is based on the inadmissibility of the occupation of the territory of others by force, guaranteeing the sovereignty and independence of states, and resolving disputes through peaceful means. In light of this principle, we deal with the Middle East crisis and its core, the Palestine question as well as with the current crisis in the Arabian Gulf.

Mudar Badran added: Regrettably, the peace process in the Middle East witnessed a state of complete stalemate even before the eruption of the Gulf crisis. This crisis has exposed the dangers that might result from the continuation of the deteriorating situation in the Middle East which might go far beyond the region. In light of this situation, there is a pressing need, more than before, to implement the Security Council resolutions that constitute the legal and political basis for any peaceful settlement in the region. Our commitment to the Security Council resolutions is imposed by the UN Charter. We cannot deal with these resolutions on a selective or occasional basis as the world has been semi-unanimous that the best way to achieve an honorable and comprehensive settlement is through an international peace conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Badran said: We in Jordan are fully satisfied with the level of relations between our countries in all fields, particularly in the economic field. We appreciate Japan's continuous support within this framework which falls within the large role assumed by your friendly country to support the economies and development of Third World countries. We are confident that your support for Jordan is an appreciation on your side of its positive role and its efforts to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East.

In his reply speech, Toshiki Kaifu said: First, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for honoring me at this dinner banquet and for the kind speech you delivered, Mr. Prime Minister.

I visited Jordan five years ago in my capacity as chairman of the delegation of the Japanese-Jordanian Parliamentary Friendship Society. I am pleased and honored to have the opportunity to be the first Japanese prime minister to visit your country. Despite the short period of cooperation between Japan and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, friendly relations between our countries have been entrenched and developed tangibly in all fields. At the top of these relations are the cordial contacts and deep friendship between the Jordanian ruling family and the Japanese imperial family as well as the many visits that His Majesty King Husayn and members of the Jordanian royal family have paid to Japan.

He added: Japan has contributed as much as possible in supporting Jordanian economic and social development efforts. In this respect, I am proud to see among you 23 young men and women from Japan in the program of volunteers for cooperation overseas. They work among you here in Jordan and shoulder even a small part of the responsibility for the progress of your country, Jordan. What augments my pride is that I am one of those who contributed to the founding of this program.

The dinner banquet was attended by the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, his highness the chief chamberlain, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, the ministers, a number of senior civilian and military officials, the delegation accompanying the Japanese prime minister, and the Japanese ambassador to Amman.

Supports Peaceful Solution

JN0310151590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu stressed his country's firm position in defense of peace in the Middle East in harmony with UN Security Council Resolution No. 242, which includes Israel's withdrawal from all territories it occupied in 1967 and the acknowledgment of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination along with their right to establish an independent state, as well as Israel's right to exist. Mr Kaifu replied to a question faxed to him by the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY in connection with his visit to Jordan, which will begin this evening. The question concerned the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions No. 661 on the Gulf crisis and No. 242 on the Middle East crisis.

The Japanese prime minister said there has been no change at all in his country's desire to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue. Thereby, all international conflicts must be resolved by peaceful and just means.

Ramadan Arrives in Amman; To Meet Kaifu 4 Oct

JN0410060190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, arrived in Amman tonight on a visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, during which he will meet senior Jordanian officials. The JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY has learned that Ramadan will meet today [Thursday, 4 October] with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who is currently on a visit to Jordan, to discuss the Gulf crisis.

Ramadan was received at Amman airport by Mudar Badran, prime minister; Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din, information minister and acting foreign minister; senior civilian and military officials; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Ramadan is accompanied by Nizar Hamdun, under secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

Explains Purpose of Visit

JN0310222290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2200 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 3 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, arrived here tonight on an official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Taha Yasin Ramadan told the INA reporter in Amman that he carries a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries, the developments in the Arab region, and the dangers of the foreign presence on the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

He said, naturally, we are visiting our country Jordan to continue dialogue and consultation on matters of concern to the two countries, and to discuss the problems of the region.

The first deputy prime minister added: We are satisfied to have this opportunity to meet with the Jordanian leadership and all the brothers for joint discussion of all matters of interest to the two countries and the region.

He was received by Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, information minister and acting foreign minister; a number of Jordanian officials; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Meets Kaifu; Details Unknown

OW0410064890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0624 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, Oct. 4 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu had a meeting with Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan on Thursday in which he was to urge withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the release by Iraq of all foreign hostages, Japanese officials said.

Details of the meeting, held at Iraq's request at the Royal Palace in the Jordanian capital of Amman, were not immediately known.

Kaifu is the first leader of a major Western country to have contact with the Baghdad Government since Iraq's August 2 invasion of its oil-rich neighbor Kuwait.

Ramadan is Iraq's No. 2 leader after President Saddam Husayn, who is also prime minister.

The officials said Kaifu would call in the meeting for the restoration of the Kuwaiti Government of the Amir, Shaykh Jabir al- Ahmad al-Sabah.

Kaifu, who is on a five-nation tour of the Middle East, arrived in Jordan earlier Wednesday from Egypt.

The Kaifu-Ramadan talks follow the cancellation of a planned meeting between Japanese and Iraqi foreign ministers Taro Nakayama and Tariq 'Aziz.

That meeting had been set for September 25 in New York, where both ministers were due to attend the United Nations General Assembly. 'Aziz called off his trip to the United States, however, after the U.S. Government refused permission for an Iraqi airliner to land in New York.

Analysts described the Iraqi request for the meeting with Kaifu as a fresh initiative by the Baghdad Government, which they said is being isolated in the world community amid economic sanctions adopted by the UN Security Council and the deployment of multinational forces in the Persian Gulf.

After the meeting with Ramadan, Kaifu is scheduled to meet King Husayn of Jordan.

Earlier in the day, Kaifu met Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister Mudar Badran and urged them to strictly observe economic sanctions against Iraq.

Kaifu offered Jordan 250 million dollars in loans, including 100 million dollars worth of commodity loans, to help alleviate the effect on its economy of the Gulf crisis.

Kaifu is due to leave Jordan for Turkey on Thursday. He will also visit Saudi Arabia and Oman before returning home October 9.

Peaceful Solution Stressed

JN0410101490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 4 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has stressed that Iraq is serious about finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and is ready for political talks.

During his meeting here today with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, he said that Iraq rejects any Arab or international talks while foreign forces are present on Arab territory. The departure of foreign and U.S. Forces is a prerequisite for creating a positive atmosphere for peace, he stressed.

Mr. Ramadan reviewed Iraq's practical positions aimed at averting the specter of war. This was evident through President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August, the hosting of foreigners in Iraq, and Iraq's refusal to respond to the hostile blockade resolutions made by the United States under the cover of the Security Council.

He emphasized that military escalation, threats, and speedy, inhumane decisions by the United States under the cover of the Security Council block any peaceful solution and dialogue and accelerate conditions of war, which would be a disaster for humanity.

He also reviewed the history of Kuwait as a genuine part of Iraq that was sliced off by British colonialism when history had its back turned.

Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that international legitimacy should apply to all international issues. Ignoring some of these issues, he said, is a departure from legitimacy, international law, justice, and civilization. It proves that the United States cares only about what serves its own interests at the expense of peoples' rights to their territory, sovereignty, independence, and wealth, he added.

Mr. Toshiki Kaifu said his country believes the Gulf problem must be solved by peaceful means and without the use of force. He praised Iraq for not starting the war, saying this creates a positive atmosphere for a peaceful solution.

He added that his country wants to continue meetings and talks with Iraqi officials for consultations and joint action to serve both bilateral relations and international issues of common concern.

The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying Mr. Ramadan and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman. It was attended on the Japanese side by the delegation accompanying Mr. Kaifu.

Japanese Delegation Meets Al-Lawzi, 'Arar

JN0210213490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi today met with a Japanese parliamentary delegation led by Satoshi Yatabe, diet member, chairman of the foreign affairs committee in the Japanese Socialist Party, and secretary-general of the Party's committee on the Gulf crisis.

During the meeting, al-Lawzi praised bilateral friendship and cooperation relations, referring to exchange visits between officials from the two countries and their role in strengthening cooperation between Jordan and Japan. He added: We are against war, occupation, oppression, agression, and dictatorship. We support cooperation, freedom, and democracy, and stress the role of international cooperation in serving humanity and putting an end to the evils of war.

Al-Lawzi said that the Palestine question will always be the focal point of serious political developments in the Middle East. He said that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, has been exerting great efforts since the beginning of the Gulf crisis to resolve it within the Arab fold away from the intervention of foreigners, who are only concerned with their own interests.

For his part, Mr. Yatabe pointed out the Japanese Socialist Party's position, which calls for finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and not using military force to resolve it. He stressed the need to find a political solution for all Middle East issues, which have been outstanding for decades.

Sulayman 'Arar, speaker of the House of Representatives, met at the Senate today with the Japanese delegation in the presence of several deputies and the secretary general of the Senate.

Mr. 'Arar spoke of the strong relationship between Jordan and Japan, and pointed out that Japan plays a notable and important role in the world. He called for understanding the Jordanian position on the Gulf crisis, pointing out that what is taking place in the Gulf is an attempt to neutralize Iraqi power in order to control the oil. He also said that the foreign troops' presence in the Gulf is a provocation to Muslim peoples.

Leaves Amman for Baghdad

JN0310144690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] The Japanese parliamentary delegation left Amman this afternoon for Baghdad following a two-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, the members of the delegation met with the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate and some members of parliament.

King Husayn Meets With Japanese Reporters

OW0310043690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0318 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, Oct. 2 KYODO—King Husayn of Jordan said Tuesday [2 October] he hopes to see a package of solutions to Middle East issues, including the current crisis in the Persian Gulf.

Meeting Japanese reporters, King Husayn also said he is looking forward to seeing Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu during his visit here soon.

Kaifu will meet the Jordanian King Thursday during his two-day trip to the country from Wednesday.

The King said the crisis in the Gulf resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2 was aggravated by the deployment of multinational forces there though he did not refer to specific foreign countries.

He said Iraq does not want to hold peace talks in the face of a military threat.

The King said Iraq wants to discuss the Gulf crisis and other Arab issues among Arab nations and seek solutions to essentially Arab issues, including the future of the Palestinians and Lebanon along with the Gulf crisis. These issues, he said, are better solved in international conferences.

The Iraqi president previously said he welcomed a peace proposal made last week by French President Francois Mitterrand in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly.

The proposal was for a four-step process to resolve not only the Gulf crisis but also other Middle East issues, including Palestinian demands for an independent state.

King Husayn said his country still recognizes the Kuwaiti Government and called for the return of the Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

He said Iraq pledged to withdraw its troops from Kuwait after the invasion and displayed a cooperative stance toward other Arab countries in solving the problem.

USSR's Primakov Arrives, Comments on Visit

JN0310155490 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 3 Oct (PETRA)—Mr. Yevgeniy Primakov, adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and member of the USSR Presidential Council, arrived in Amman this afternoon heading a delegation on a one-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, Primakov will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials.

In an arrival statement, Primakov said he carries a message to His Majesty King Husayn from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the situation in the region.

He added that his visit to Jordan is for the purpose of consultation with His Majesty King Husayn on the pending difficult situation in the region, considering the close ties between Jordan and the USSR and the fact that both of them hold similar views. He noted that the decision to visit Jordan prior to the Soviet delegation's departure for Baghdad was made by the Soviet president.

He said that the Soviet leadership thinks there is room for a peaceful and political solution to the Gulf crisis.

The Soviet delegation comprises Belousov, deputy prime minister of the USSR [name and title as received]; Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy minister of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations; and Vasiliy Kolotusha, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration in the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation was received at the airport by Mu'tasim al-Bilbaysi, secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Khalid 'Ubaydat, head of the Political Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; a number of officials; and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

Views Immigrants, Gulf Buildup

JN0310204190 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Mr. Primakov, a member of the Soviet Presidential Council arrived in Amman earlier today on a one-day visit. He told reporters at the airport that he wanted to consult with his majesty on the outstanding issues in the Middle East in view of the solid relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Our reporter Maha al-Sha'ir asked Mr. Primakov on the resumption of air links between the Soviet Union and Israel and on the military buildup in the Gulf.

[Begin recording in progress; reporter's questions in English, Primakov's answers in Russian with consecutive translation into English] [Al-Sha'ir]....direct air route that you've built with Israel, between Israel and Moscow. What is the aspect? And what is behind this air route? Do you want to immigrate more Soviet Jews to Israel?

[Primakov] Sure, we don't want that our Jews immigrate more than they immigrate now. We for sure don't want this emigre to settle in the occupied territories.

[Al-Sha'ir] But how about the military buildup. Are you supporting it?

[Primakov] We are against this military tension, and we are against that the conflict became a military explosion. [end recording]

Departs for Baghdad 4 Oct

JN0410081690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] Yevgeniy Primakov, the Soviet president's special envoy and member of the USSR Presidential Council, left Amman this morning for Baghdad following an official visit to Jordan, during which he conveyed a message to His Majesty King Husayn from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He also held talks with His Majesty King Husayn on the Gulf crisis and its various dimensions, and the efforts to end this crisis through peaceful means, especially the Jordanian role in this regard.

He was seen off at the airport by Mu'tasim al-Bilbaysi, Foreign Ministry secretary general, and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

'Arafat Arrives To Meet With King, Soviet Envoy

JN0310205590 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2005 GMT 3 Oct 90

[All questions and answers in English]

[Text] Palestine president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman tonight. Mr. 'Arafat will hold talks with his majesty the king and the Soviet delegation curently visiting Jordan. The Palestinian president was received by Minister of Culture Khalid al-Karaki.

Mr. 'Arafat briefed reporters on the nature of his visit.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What is the purpose of your visit here to Jordan?

['Arafat] I have mentioned. I have come to discuss the peaceful efforts with his majesty. And in the same time, I have an appointment with special Soviet Union envoy; he is a member in the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union, Mr. Primakov. And I will continue my trip to other countries.

[Reporter] It seems to be a lot more talking going on now. Two weeks ago it was very tense. And now the Soviet Union representative is here, and you're here; King Husayn has been traveling around. Are you optimistic now that there is a chance of a peaceful settlement to discuss?

['Arafat] Yes, I am, I am. I am optimistic because we are insisting that there must be a peaceful Arab solution.

[Reporter] You are more optimistic now than you were, say, one week ago?

['Arafat] We can say not one week, three days ago.

[Reporter] Why is that?

['Arafat] Because we have to mention to the member the very important statement declared by President Mitterrand, the European-Soviet Union communique. And two days ago, the statement declared by, the speech declared by President Bush.

[Reporter] Then you are optimistic.

['Arafat] Not completely optimistic, but it means what we have mentioned from the beginning that there must be a peaceful solution, peaceful political solution; now have the balance [as heard].

[Reporter] Do you feel more confident now that there is a chance that the Palestinian question, Palestinian problem, will be linked with the....

['Arafat, interrupting] No doubt it had been linked.

[Reporter] Why do you feel confidence?

['Arafat] It is clear and obvious. Even Mr. Bush, even President Bush, had mentioned the link, not directly but indirectly. [end recording]

Comments on Gulf Crisis

JN0310214790 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Amman this evening on a working visit to Jordan during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and the Soviet president's envoy who is currently in Jordan. [passage omitted]

Salah Khalaf and Mahmud 'Abbas also arrived with Mr. 'Arafat.

Mr. 'Arafat made a statement to our reporter for political affairs Salim 'Ali Dhiyab in which he spoke about the situation in the region.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. President. Our question is about the Arab solution. Through this solution, is there an Arab initiative? If so, are there details?

['Arafat] We cannot say there is an Arab initiative, because an Arab initiative emerges when all ideas are in harmony. However, there are Arab ideas which we are trying to crystallize into a complete initiative, God willing. But we have to point out here that there are intensive Arab efforts undertaken by those whom I call the advocates of the Arab solution in our Arab region; mainly, a number of Arab leaders, and more specifically, His Majesty King Husayn and other Arab leaders who believe that our problems have to be settled within an Arab context, and within the Arab family, because the alternative is war—a war in which there would be no victor—which means a disaster for the entire Arab nation.

Therefore, we have to do our best to prevent an explosion of the situation, especially since we have seen that there is a change in international stands. We have President Mitterrand's initiative, the Euro-Soviet statement, and even recently the message addressed by President Bush to the UN meeting 48 hours ago. All these are signs that there is a change in the international atmosphere. This should prompt us, the Arab nation, to be the first to shoulder our responsibilities so as to safeguard our Arab nation, pan-Arab security, the future of our children, and our Arab heritage, because the foreign armies have not come to render a service to our Arab nation. [end recording]

King Husayn Receives Cable From King Fahd

JN0310124690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Cable received by King Husayn from King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia; date not given]

[Text] His Majesty brother King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Amman.

It pleases me, upon receiving your majesty's cable to me on the occasion of the national day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to express to your majesty on behalf of the people and Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and in my name, our sincerest thanks and appreciation for the good sentiments, congratulations, and best wishes it contained. I wish you continued good health and happiness and that the fraternal Jordanian people continued progress and prosperity.

[Signed] Custodian of the two holy mosques, Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Mubarak Sends Message on Prophet's Birthday

JN0310145090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the anniversary of the honorable prophet's birthday.

His excellency expressed greetings and best wishes of good health and happiness to his majesty and further progress and prosperity to the Jordanian people.

Crown Prince Urges Healing Rift With Saudis

OW0410014290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0030 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, Oct. 3 KYODO—Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan said Wednesday [3 October] he hopes that a quarrel with Saudi Arabia over the Gulf crisis will soon blow over, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

Hasan said he strongly hopes Saudi Arabia's expulsion of Jordanian diplomats last month represents only a temporary difference in standpoint.

Hassan made the remark in a 45-minute meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Saudi Arabia ordered Jordanian diplomats to leave on September 22, saying Amman had failed to strictly observe economic sanctions against Iraq. The Saudis also cut off oil supplies to Jordan.

Jordan's King Husayn responded in an open letter to the U.S, congress reiterating his objection to the presence of U.S. and other non-Arab forces in the Gulf.

Hasan appeared to soften Jordan's position when he told Kaifu on Wednesday that the presence of the multinational forces would not necessarily prevent an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, a Japanese official said.

Army Command Announces Crossing Point Closings

NC0310134290 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Statement by the Guidance Directorate of the Army Command led by General Emile Lahhud on 3 October in Beirut—read by announcer]

[Text] Proceeding from the information available to the command on the circumstances and reasons that led to the abominable massacre of innocent citizens along the Nahr al-Mawt crossing point, out of concern for the safety of the citizens, and to avoid the recurrence of such incidents in view of repeated calls for demonstrations toward Upper al-Matn crossing points, the Army command announces the following:

1. The crossing points of al-Dawwar,'Ayn al-Tuffahah, Shrin, Btighrin, and Biskinta will be closed as of 1400 today.

2. The zone of the those crossing points is considered a dangerous military operations zone because of the barricades and mines in it. Citizens are warned not to approach it, or they will have to bear the consequences.

3. The command will be compelled to apply these measures along all crossing points that could be the target of similar moves.

4. The army command will reopen the closed crossing points once the provocative demonstrations along them stop.

Demonstrators Approach Crossing

NC0310213090 Paris AFP in English 2051 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Beirut, Oct 3 (AFP)—Several thousand supporters of General Michel 'Awn took to the streets Wednesday in defiance of President Ilyas al-Hirawi to protest a six-day blockade of the region held by the renegade Christian leader.

Waving giant Lebanese flags and carrying portraits of Gen. 'Awn, the demonstrators flocked in trucks, buses and cars to the Douar crossing, 25 kilometers (15 miles) northeast of Beirut, at the edge of the al-Matn region.

Gen. 'Awn's radio put the number at at least 10,000.

Several hundred people remained at al-Dawwar late into the night, but were unable to approach the crossing, which was blocked by two armoured cars and a bus. Troops warned the protesters that the passage was mined. [passage omitted]

'Awn Asks United Nations To Send Observers

NC0310174890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Former Army commander General Michel 'Awn has appealed for help from the United Nations to end the blockade. He sent a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar asking the UN Secretariat and the organizations concerned to intervene immediately and send a team of observers and experts to examine the tragic situation afflicting approximately 1 million people, and to assess their need for medical treatment and food requirements.

'Awn said in his message that it is unjust that (?250,000) children should remain under siege, which in the short run threatens them with starvation and lack of medicine.

'Awn Militia Fires on Lebanese Forces in East

NC0410065890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] Pro-'Awn gunmen are directing automatic weapon and rocket fire at residential neighborhoods and Lebanese Forces' positions in the Galerie al-Ittihad area.

Pro-'Awn gunmen last night directed automatic weapon fire at residential neighborhoods and Lebanese Forces' positions in Salome and al-Ashrafiyah. They also fired two 60-mm mortar shells at the al-Nab'ah area.

Hizballah Condemns Nahr al-Mawt 'Massacre'

NC0410092290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] An official Hizballah source has condemned the Nahr al-Mawt crime, stressing Hizballah's rejection of suppressing popular action by force.

In a statement, the Hizballah source affirmed that any person or party with a minimum of concern for mankind will be struck by grief and indignation over the terrible crime committed against the demonstrators at Nahr al-Mawt bridge, which left scores of people dead and wounded.

The source added: Regardless of the political implications of the demonstration and out of human and civilized principles, we strongly condemn this ugly criminal action; once again, regardless of the political implications of the demonstration taking place prior to the massacre, we affirm our rejection and condemnation of the suppression of popular action by force. He continued: Expressing one's opinion, regardless of position, is an inalienable right. The forces and parties must at least respect the people's right to express their will, even if they do not agree. The people have the freedom to act, and this freedom must be honored regardless of ideological and political considerations.

The statement concludes: Out of Islamic and human principles and on the anniversary of the birthday of the Prophet, may God's prayers and blessings be upon him, we extend our condolences and consolation to the families of the dead and wounded.

Government To Request Logistic Aid From Syria

NC0410072390 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] Press sources cited a government source as saying that the cabinet has made a clear decision to ask the Syrian Government to provide direct logistic support for the Lebanese Army to enforce state authority in all Lebanese areas. The source said the ministers had perused a written decision on this, and a high-ranking Lebanese envoy is scheduled to convey the decision to Damascus today.

The source added that the Syrian Command has been briefed on this decision by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, who paid a short visit to Beirut yesterday.

Cabinet Discusses Nahr Al-Mawt, Security Issues

NC0310163990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Statement by Information Minister Edmond Rizq after a cabinet meeting at the presidential headquarters in West Beirut on 3 October—recorded]

[Text] The cabinet held a session under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Attending were Acting Prime Minister Michel Sasin and the ministers.

At the beginning of the session, his excellency the president briefed the cabinet on the meeting of the higher national defense council, including the stands it adopted and the measures it approved.

The cabinet then reviewed political and security developments. His excellency the president briefed the cabinet on the outcome of the Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting, the understanding that prevailed during it, and the resulting affirmation of cooperation between the two countries to establish peace and security in Lebanon.

His Excellency Defense Minister Dr. Albert Mansur presented a statement on measures that are being taken to end the rebellion and unify the Lebanese army—measures that are designed to spare the country further bloodshed, tears, and violence.

As a result of its deliberations, the cabinet decided the following:

To denounce the abominable crime that took place on the Nahr al-Mawt crossing point two days ago in which a number of persons were killed or wounded, and to refer this crime to the judiciary council because it affects the security of the entire Lebanese state.

To commend the Lebanese Army for its discipline under its legitimate command, its efforts to perform its national duty, and to praise the army's spontaneous restoration of unity and cohesion among its various brigades which can be an example for the reunification of the military establishment on the basis of professional ethics.

To consider the security measures being implemented by the army as stemming from an eagerness to rule out violence and to enable the citizens to resume their normal life in the various areas with as little harm and damage as possible.

To take maximum precautions to avoid any armed clash and to prevent any military incidents that could be exploited by those who caused them to achieve personal goals.

The cabinet cautions against the attempts in rebellious areas to cause and escalate tension aimed at bringing about further tragedies and using them to prolong the people's suffering.

The cabinet notes that it has often given a chance to the reconciliatory efforts and the various fraternal and friendly initiatives in the hope of achieving peaceful solutions. The cabinet always met, however, with obstinacy and negative stands. This prompted it to resort to objective and practical measures to put an end to the anomalous situation in part of the eastern area.

The cabinet holds the rebellious, mutinous parties responsible for the consequences of this situation, while warning against persistence in tampering with the homeland's destiny.

The cabinet is determined to halt gambling with the people's blood. It regards every drop of blood shed at the altar of lust and selfishness as an unforgiveable crime against the entire homeland.

His excellency the president briefed the cabinet on the contacts and meetings being held by His Excellency Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss at the head of the Lebanese delegation in the United Nations. The cabinet expressed its satisfaction with the contents of Prime Minister al-Huss' speech, delivered on behalf of Lebanon before the UN General Assembly, and the positive impression it made on the delegations and international public opinion.

The cabinet also expressed its appreciation for the constructive efforts Prime Minister al-Huss is making with heads of states and governments and foreign ministers at the United Nations.

On the occasion of the declaration of German reunification, the cabinet congratulated the German people and their united government, expressing its appreciation of the genuineness of this great and friendly people and their blessed efforts for reconstruction and peace.

Al-Asad Stresses Commitment to Al-Hirawi

JN2909213690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2113 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Damascus, 29 Sep (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi held a closed session at 1800 today at the Presidential Palace in Damascus. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi joined the meeting at 2030. The meeting dealt with the situation in Lebanon and the measures taken by the legitimate government to extend its control to all Lebanese areas and implement the national reconciliation charter. Viewpoints were identical on the issues discussed.

The president stressed Syria's commitment to support the legitimate Lebanese Government and its readiness to provide the support requested by the Lebanese legitimate authority. The president also stressed Syria's support for any move taken by the legitimate Lebanese Government to enforce the state's authority over Lebanese territory.

The meeting also touched on the Gulf crisis and the situation in the region.

The meetings were interrupted by a working dinner hosted by the president in honor of President al-Hirawi. Khaddam and al-Zu'bi attended.

Press Supports Blockade of 'Awn-held Areas

JN3009085090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Sep 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Freedom for All Lebanese Areas," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial today that President al-Hirawi has, since assuming the post of legitimate chief executive in Lebanon, worked diligently and sincerely to make the national reconciliation process achieve its objectives. The paper adds: Despite the immense patience displayed by the legitimate government and the chances it has given to the person who rebelled against the homeland and sought to destroy it, the rebel has chosen not to react favorably, thinking that he can confront the will to effect a reconciliation and halt the movement of national efforts toward safe shores. Through its handling of the Lebanese issue, and through its eagerness to safeguard the homeland and its sons, the legitimate government has confirmed its credibility and its eagerness to spare the homeland further destruction and bloodshed.

AL-BA'TH adds: What the rebel sought to achieve is diametrically opposed to the will of the legitimate government, which has rejected division and fragmentation and sincerely safeguarded the interests of the sons of the homeland. This was at a time when 'Awn was wreaking havoc in the area which he held through the perpetration of daily catastrophes. Now, and after 10 months of efforts by the legitimate government, which created amity, solidarity, and conviction among all parties, ending the rebellion has become inevitable. The legitimate government's move to terminate the rebellion represents salvation for the entire homeland, including those on whom 'Awn imposed his hegemony and domination.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: Syria, which has supported Lebanon since the beginning of its ordeal, will continue to make sacrifices for and support a fraternal country because it, along with this country's legitimate authority, aspires to see the sun of freedom rise in all areas of Lebanon.

Under the headline "The Legitimate Authority Will Have All Support," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in one of its commentaries: For the second consecutive day, the army of the legitimate Lebanese Government, after some of its units completed their deployment at a few crossing points and contact lines, is now tightening the siege around the rebellion created and imposed by 'Awn on East Beirut and its environs.

The paper adds: This blockade comes after the legitimate Lebanese Government has exhausted all possible means of mediation and Arab and international pressures to convince 'Awn to terminate his rebellion. Hence, the legitimate Lebanese Government has decided to deal firmly with the rebellion led by 'Awn and his group and which it forces on others.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that the enforcement of the blockade on the 'Awn-held areas is a prelude to efforts to activate and revitalize the Lebanese national reconciliation endeavor in accordance with the principles enshrined in the reconciliation document.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: As has always been its practice, Syria reaffirms its commitment to support the legitimate Lebanese Government and its support for any move it makes to extend authority on Lebanese soil. Likewise, Syria reiterates its readiness to offer the support that this legitimate authority might request to extend its authority on all Lebanese territory and implement the national charter that will enable Lebanon to end the vicious circle of infighting and terminate the rebellion and mutiny in order to prepare for closing the Lebanese crisis file once and for all, so that Lebanon can return safe, independent, sovereign, and with a markedly clear identity keeping it close to its Arab environment.

'Awn Commits 'New Massacre' Against Lebanese

JN0310133490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Lebanese People Will Not Forgive the Rebel's Crimes," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The legitimate government's measures to end rebellion in East Beirut were not aimed against citizens. Since it assumed the responsibility of salvation and of achieving national accord through the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement, the legitimate government has proven the credibility of its approach, namely, that it is for all Lebanese and not for one sect against the other.

AL-BA'TH adds: The measures carried out at the crossing points were aimed at isolating 'Awn further and putting him to the test on the choice between peace and destruction. In view of his insistence on continuing the state of destruction and perpetuating his aberrations, he returned to his worn-out methods when he staged demonstrations to cover himself and claimed the demonstrators were supporting him, and then perpetrated a new massacre against them. This must be added to his black record, thus proving that he is bent on destroying the homeland and prolonging his personal stay in B'abda.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: However, 'Awn, who has collapsed along with the false slogans he invented, is now trying to restore imaginary glories that vanished before the Lebanese people's will and aspirations for real salvation.

Al-Shar' Meets Counterparts at UN

Saudi, Cypriot Ministers

JN0410073890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met in New York today with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal in the presence of Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, Saudi ambassador to Washington. The talks focused on developments in the Gulf crisis. They also assessed the outcome of the Arab ministerial meeting held this morning.

Al-Shar' also met with Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iacovou. The talks focused on bilateral relations and means to strengthen them and the developments resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Japanese Foreign Minister, Others

JN2909213090 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in English 1800 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who is in New York attending the 45th session of the UN General Assembly has met with the Japanese foreign minister and reviewed with him ways and means to enhance Syrian-Japanese relations. The two foreign ministers agreed to meet in Damascus on 9 October. Their discussion also dealt with the situation in the Gulf.

Mr. al-Shar' had earlier met with the EC commissioner and the foreign ministers of Argentina and Holland. The discussions during these meetings revolved around Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the Arab- Israeli conflict, and the international situation.

People's Assembly Speaker Opens Second Session

JN0310114190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly held its first meeting of the second ordinary session this evening under the chairmanship of People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah. The meeting was attended by Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister; Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; and ministers.

At the outset of the meeting, the Assembly speaker welcomed the members after a holiday that was interspersed with meetings with citizens to listen to their concerns.

Qaddurah spoke about events that took place during the Assembly's holiday, particularly the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, a sisterly state and member of the Arab League and United Nations. He said: Since the first moment, the voice of justice, wisdom, and Arabism came out from Syria, just as it came at the beginning of the Iraq-Iran war in order to contain the event, to turn to dialogue, and to save the region from more catastrophes and dangers that have resulted from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Qaddurah praised Syria's firm and principled pan-Arab positions under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, who reaffirmed to the entire world the soundness of his wisdom and views and his great ability to foretell the future, carry the message, and tell the truth for the sake of the Arab nation with the aim of protecting its future and destiny and saving it from the dangers threatening its entity, security, and the security of the entire world.

Concluding his speech, the People's Assembly speaker welcomed Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, his deputies, and the ministers and thanked them for taking part in the inauguration of this session. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi then gave a speech in which he reiterated Syria's firm position on pan-Arab and fateful issues, particularly the current developments in the Arab arena that resulted from the Iraqi invasion ofKuwait and the dangers posed by this invasion. He also praised Syria's efforts, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, to overcome the crisis and avert the dangers threatening the Arab nation's destiny and future.

Al-Zu'bi added that any attempt to delude people under any slogan is unacceptable, and is against the Iraqi people's interests, the Palestinian cause, and the Arab nation. He said there is no way out of this crisis except through the implementation of the Arab summit resolutions regarding Iraq's full and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Trade Union Delegation Returns From Cairo

JN2909205790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Damascus, 29 Sep (SANA)—Comrade 'Izz-al-Din Nasir, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command member and chairman of Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions [GFTU], and his delegation, returned to Damascus from Cairo following a several-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of the Egyptian Federation of Trade Unions. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Capture Two Government Posts in Khowst

BK0210150090 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 2 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] Khowst, Oct 1—The Afghan Mujahidin unleashed a severe attack on the Kabul regime security posts near Khowst early this morning and reportedly captured two security posts and inflicted heavy losses to the regime forces reports AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY. According to details Mujahidin broke off the security cordon of the regime forces near Khowst airport early at 4.00 a.m. As a result of face to face fighting between the Mujahidin and the regime forces, seven Mujahidin have been reported martyred while 25 others injured.

Unconfirmed reports claimed that Mujahidin overran two security posts of the Kabul regime near Khowst airport and reached the airport. However, the report could not be confirmed from independent sources. The fighting is still continuing and further escalation is expected tonight. Meanwhile, eyewitnesses reaching from Kabul reported great insurgency and chaos in the Afghan capital after the threat of Mujahidin to attack this city. The eyewitnesses also reported clashes between the regime militia and its regular army. Reports claimed that the despotic ruler, Najib has ordered three gunship helicopters to remain on the alert at the helipad for 24 hours so as to flee for his life in case of Mujahidin's combatant operations on Kabul.

Two gunship helicopters remain on the alert at the Presidential palace while the third one is present at the Russian embassy. The regime has also arranged a mobile radio station which is currently based near the Soviet Embassy. The mobile station will continue broadcasts in case Mujahidin attacks the Kabul radio station.

Kabul Troops Reportedly Loot, Torture Civilians

BK0310114290 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Oct 90 p 11

[Text] Peshawar, Oct. 2—"Kabul regime's militiamen, stationed around Jalalabad city in security post, are committing crimes against the civilian population, such as searching homes and looting property," reports a newly arrived refugee from the city. The man who arrived along with his two daughters, at Peshawar last week, told Midia [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] that villages and townships around the besieged city were continuously searched by some strange looking militiamen.

"They immediately shoot to death anyone who puts resistance to the menacing bulky militiamen" said the man who did not want his name to be mentioned for fear of possible repercussions on his relatives still living in Jalalabad city.

He said a number of families who were migrating to the city were looted and abused by these unruly militia bands. He said that he managed to flee from the city where law and order has come to a complete standstill, along with his two young daughters. "We were always nervous about our safety," he added.

Earlier sources reported that the Kabul regime army was still unable to cope with the disorder and menace created by tribal militia units in Kabul city.

The source informed that in spite of the declarations and official statements by the regime's Defence Ministry, the militiamen were still at large and continue to roam in the city and terrorise innocent civilians. The source confirmed that many cases of looting and murdering have occurred in the rural suburbs of Kabul city, even after the regime authorities officially claimed the total routing of the tribal militiamen from the heart of the city.

The harassed and victimised civilians have no longer any faith in the empty proclamations of the regime the source noted.

Resistance Claims Capture of Oruzgan Province

BK0410094790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0936 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 4 (AFP)—Afghan resistance fighters claimed Thursday to have captured central Afghanistan's Oruzgan Province after three weeks of fighting for control of its capital Tarin Kot.

Rebel sources said provincial Governor Abdul Shakoor [name as received] surrendered Wednesday in Tarin Kot and that mujahidin guerrillas have taken over administration of the whole province. They said the rebels captured nine battle tanks and armoured personnel carriers besides thousands of small arms and food supplies.

Bangladesh

Ershad Notes 'Enormous' Losses Due to Gulf Crisis

BK0310161790 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] President Ershad said Bangladesh will have to curtail its imports as well as development programs unless the [words indistinct] the enormous losses due to the Gulf crisis. He was speaking at a reception given in his honor by the Asia Society in New York. The president said the cost of repatriation of thousands of Bangladeshis from Kuwait and Iraq will be nearly $36 million, while the country has lost an annual $160 million in remittances. Besides, Bangladesh has lost $120 million annually in exports to these countries. Enhanced prices of petroleum products and oil will further cost Bangladesh $220 million annually. The president called for increased international aid to overcome the losses.

PRC Foreign Minister Praises Cooperation, Ties

BK0410063290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has said friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and his country are expanding steadily. In a message to Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, he said our bilateral relations are based on five principles of peaceful coexistence.

India

Bill Passed To Extend President's Rule in Punjab

BK0410081690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] The Lok Sabha today passed the Constitution amendment bill seeking to extend president's rule in Punjab for another six months beyond 10 November. The bill secured almost unanimous support of 432 members voting in favor, four against, and five abstentions. Earlier, the house waived the rules to allow reintroduction of the bill which fell through on Monday [1 October] for want of requisite majority.

Replying to points made by members during the closing stages of the voting process, the home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, said it will be government's endeavor to creat a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair election within six months. He appealed to all political parties to join hands with the government in this effort.

Gujral Condemns Iraqi Occupation of Kuwait

BK0410053690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] India has expressed the hope that the Gulf crisis will soon be resolved peacefully. Speaking to newsmen at the Delhi Airport on his arrival from a 10-day visit to New York last night, the external affairs minister, Mr. I. K. Gujral, said that Iraq should retrace its step from Kuwait. Reiterating India's stand on the issue, Mr. Gujral made it clear that New Delhi does not condone the occupation of any country and at the same time wants the issue to be resolved peacefully. He said a war will have devastating effects on the entire world. Mr. Gujral said the country's economy is under strain because of the crisis and any escalation of hostilities will harm its interests further.

Political Groups Condemn Antireservation Violence

BK0310163390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Several political parties and organizations have condemned yesterday's violent incidents at the antireservation rally in the capital. The Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded a judicial inquiry into incidents and police firing. It has called for suspension of the agitation over the Mandal Commission recommendations in view of the Supreme Court's direction and asked the government to evolve a consensus on the issue.

The CPI [Communist Party of India], in a statement, advised the students to keep the antisocial and criminal elements away from their agitation. The Delhi unit of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] demanded action against BKU [Bharatiya Kisan—Indian Farmers—Union] leaders for their provocative speeches. The party blamed that some vested interests brought armed antisocial elements to the rally, who indulged in large-scale violence and looting. The Citizens for Peace Organization appealed to both anti- and pro-Mandal Commission agitationists to give vent to their feelings through democratic means.

The All India Lawyers and Intellectuals Forum has criticized Delhi police for allowing people to come to the rally armed with sticks and other lethal weapons. The vice chancellor of the Delhi University, Professor Upendra Bakhshi, has appealed to all those agitating over the issue to help restore peace so that the court can take up the matter in a conducive atmosphere. The industry minister, Mr. Ajit Singh, accused the BKU leader of inciting students to resort to violence at the antireservation rally held in the capital yesterday and said it is an act of irresponsibility. Mr. Ajit Singh called upon the students and farmers opposing the implementation of the Mandal Commission report to shun violence and come to the negotiating table with an open mind as urged by the government.

The situation in Delhi is peaceful and no untoward incident was reported from anywhere today. The police is maintaining strict vigil in all sensitive areas as a precautionary measure. A DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] spokesman told our correspondent that 2,500 buses will ply tomorrow. He said the bus services in rural areas and for neighboring states will be resumed if the situation further improves.

Another youth, Ramakant Chaturvedi, brought from Bhind, Madhya Pradesh, to Safdarjang Hospital in New Delhi after a self-immolation bid, succumbed to his injuries this evening. According to the hospital sources, there are now eight youths undergoing treatment. Out of these, the condition of three is critical.

The situation in most of the northern parts of the country remained peaceful today after over a month-long agitation against reservation, except for violent incidents of arson, brickbatting, and suicide attempts.

About eighty Janata Dal members of Parliament, including some ministers, have demanded inclusion of Jats and some other castes into the list of socially and educationally backward communities. They have signed a memorandum to be submitted to the prime minister.

Kashmir Papers To Stop Publication 5 Oct

*BK0310164790 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 3 Oct 90*

[Text] The Kashmir Editors Conference has decided to stop publication of all dailies in the valley indefinitely from Friday [5 October] to protest against the growing threats to the media. According to agency reports, the sudden decision of the editors came in the wake of a powerful bomb blast at the residence-cum-office of a leading Urdu daily—THE SRINAGAR TIMES—in Srinagar yesterday. The bomb exploded within minutes after the meeting of the editors conference.

Meeting Discusses Plan To Provide Youth Jobs

*BK0310152190 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 3 Oct 90*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, today held a high-level meeting in New Delhi to chalk out a program for involving the youth in nation-building activities and to provide them with job-oriented training. The meeting identified three main components of the program. These include provision for technical and vocational training to both rural and urban youths to enable them to secure employment in industry and the services sector. School and college going students are to be involved in national literacy drive, family planning, and afforestation programs.

According to an official spokesman, the government is also considering the possibility of engaging youths in tasks relating to national security. The spokesman said the meeting considered the provision of jobs, self-employment, and other income-earning opportunities to meritorious candidates from the economically weaker sections. The government will prepare the preliminary estimates and detailed plans and place them before the National Youth Council which is likely to meet by the end of this month.

Iran

Saudi Arabia 'Ready To Discuss' Diplomatic Ties

*LD0310155290 Tehran IRNA in English
1412 GMT 3 Oct 90*

[Text] Athens, Oct. 3 [IRNA]—Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal has said that Riyadh was ready to discuss normalisation of diplomatic ties with Tehran. Al-Faysal made the statement to Saudi daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT today, Radio Amman reported.

The foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran 'Ali Akbar Velayati met al-Faysal in New York Monday and discussed normalisation of ties between the two Muslim countries. It was the first meeting of the two foreign ministers since 1988 when Riyadh cut off diplomatic ties with Tehran in 1988, after Saudi security police massacred over 400 Iranian pilgrims during the 1987 hajj.

Velayati To Continue Talks on Hajj Pilgrims

*LD0410140790 Tehran IRNA in English 1329 GMT
4 Oct 90*

[Text] Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., Oct. 4, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Thursday [4 October] that he will hold further talks with his Saudi counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal on the issue of Iranian hajj pilgrims in the near future.

Speaking in a press interview, Velayati expressed optimism towards the recent announcement by al-Faysal in New York that Riyadh would welcome Iranian hajj pilgrims this year.

"We hope that our pilgrims will be able to perform the important religious-political hajj rituals this year properly and in a way instructed by Islam and in compliance with the guidelines set by the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni and leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i," he added.

On the trend of the Iran-Iraq peace negotiations and the POW's swap halted since about a month ago, he said, "We expect an Iraqi delegation to reciprocate the recent visit by the deputy foreign minister for international affairs and visit Tehran to follow up talks on completing the POW's exchange."

Deputy Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki heading a delegation visited Baghdad last month to discuss various issues, including the exchange of prisoners of war.

Turning to the issue of cooperation between Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) grouping Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, and the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council, Velayati referred to Iranian and Turkish presidents' telephone conversations in recent weeks, to the recent visit by Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan to Tehran and also meetings held recently with several (P)GCC foreign ministers in New York and said, "Negotiations for establishing cooperation between ECO and (P)GCC have been completed."

Velayati, a pediatrician by profession, accompanied by several medical officials arrived here Thursday morning to attend a seminar on pediatrics.

Rafsanjani Reportedly To Visit Baghdad 11 Oct

*JN0410072190 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
4 Oct 90 First Edition p 1*

["Exclusive"]

[Excerpt] SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned from informed Arab sources that Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani will visit Baghdad on 11 October. It was also learned that the Iranian president will take with him a number of Iraqi prisoners as a new Iranian gesture of goodwill in reply to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative to reactivate the Algiers agreement of 1975. [passage omitted]

Guardians Council Issues Statement on Candidates

LD0310203690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Following the recent hue and cry in connection with the views of the Guardians Council on the eligibility of candidates for the Experts Assembly, that council has issued a statement, announcing that nothing has influenced their opinion but the constitution and the religious law. The text of the statement is as follows:

In the name of the Almighty. In the wake of the recent hue and cry regarding the views of scholars of the Guardians Council on the eligibillity of candidates for the Experts Assembly which may confuse some people's minds, we deem it necessary to explain a few points:

The Guardians Council always, according to its religious and lawful duties, and the perpetual emphasis placed by the imam—may his dust be sanctified—has given top priority to the issues of safeguarding Islamic standards and the foundations of the constitution. Regardless of agreement or disagreement among some people, without paying attention to the will of various parties, and without entering into discussion, even regardless of considerations which are against the religion and the constitution, the Council has announced its jurisprudence and legal views. During the time when his eminence the imam—may God's benedictions be upon him—was alive, the Council informed him when necessary of the issues, and wherever he had any particular view, it accepted that view wholeheartedly.

It is obvious that the application of such a method will not satisfy those who mostly pay attention to what pleases people or groups and [in that regard] sometimes objections were even voiced. If it had not been for the full suport of his eminence the imam, the Guardians Council would have faced many problems.

The Guardians Council, in assessing the eligibility of candidates to the Experts Assembly, also used the same method. Through repeated consultations, the Guardians Council came to the conclusion that it should review the qualifications from the viewpoint of religious argument and without the least degree of favoritism. Regarding those [candidates] whose scientific expediency was not confirmed, the council necessarily decided to test them. The invitation to the test did not please some, who did not take part for the same reason, which resulted in their cases not being approved. Also, a number of those who participated did not achieve favorable results because of prolonged isolation or any other reason, and naturally their non-acceptance was announced. In these circumstances a number of those accepted the non-acceptance result and even thanked [us], which shows their extraordinary piety and respect for law, may God reward them. Unfortunately however, some adopted stances which did not suit their dignity and their foundation.

We clearly state that nothing, apart from the law and shari'a, has influenced our opinion, and sometimes even against our extreme personal will and against friendly relations, we have implemented the law and even disapproved the cases of the closest of friends. From both sides, some were rejected and some accepted. There is no difference between people and groups when we implement the law. We respect the dignity of every person and we regard everybody equally; everybody is in the same trench against the enemies of Islam and the revolution.

Regarding the acceptance of testimonies: [qabul-e shahadat-ha], again jurisprudential standards were considered. Those familiar with legal and judicial issues know well that in some cases the testimony may not be accepted, for instance when objection is voiced or when a mistake is known to have happened. In that case we have explanations which we will give if necessary. Of course, if the honorable leader—who is the only expedient source in those cases—has any questions, then we are wholeheartedly prepared to give any kind of explanation.

In conclusion of this statement, we draw the attention of the dear and honorable nation to a part of the message by his eminence the imam—God's benedictions be upon him—regarding the irresponsible stances adopted against the scholars of the Guardians Council during the elections of candidates for the second round of the Islamic Consultative Majles on 15 May 1984:

It is not clear if, even in the early days of the constitutional movement, and during the first round of elections, similar attitudes were adopted against the scholars who supervised the legal procedures. I warn the gentlemen that weakening and insulting scholars of the Guardians Council is a very dangerous action against the country and against Islam. Deviations always slowly penetrate into a regime and finally result in the downfall of that regime. I have to mention that the gentlemen scholars of the Guardians Council were chosen by me on the basis of acquaintance and familiarity, and I deem it necessary that they and their positions are respected. I hope that such attitudes will not be repeated, and I remind the Guardians Council to be steadfast in their work, to act with decisiveness and accuracy, and to rely on Almighty God. I seek Almighty God's benediction and mercy for the dear nation. Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni. 15 May 1984.

Let the competitors compete against one another [koranic verse].

[Signed] Scholars of the Guardians Council
3 October 1990.

Praised by Khamene'i

LD0310162590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1108 GMT 3 Oct 90

["Text" of speech by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to released POW's, families of martyrs and the disabled, and military and security officials in Tehran on 3 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] The issue of Unity Week, you should know, is that for scores of years, maybe longer, imperialism and colonialism spent a great deal of money to create differences among Muslims. They wrote books, published magazines, spread rumors, and tried to encourage prejudices in order to create differences. This gave rise to a great deal of deep rooted animosity and hostility toward one another in the hearts of Muslims. Of course, this hostility existed in former times as well, but during the colonialist period it was revealed in a new form. Anyone who is familiar with the recent history of the world of Islam during the past 100 or 150 years would know what I am referring to.

The Islamic revolution took place. It raised a banner which all Muslims from all sects and all countries realized they liked, when they looked inside themselves. They felt this banner was the banner of Islam. It was the banner of the illustrious prophet of Islam, God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his familiy. [crowd chants] As a result many of the enemies' plots were foiled.

However, world arrogance would not remain idle. The blood-thirsty enemies of Islam and Muslims would not keep quiet. As soon as they realized that the Islamic revolution had given rise to unity among the Shiite and Sunnis both inside the Islamic Republic and outside the country, brought them closer together, and reduced their prejudices toward one another, they started to poison the atmosphere.

Yes, when Friday prayers are held in Tehran and when the leaders of Islamic movements and Islamic countries and the illustrious figures of Islamic nations stand in several rows behind the revolutionary, Shiite congregational Friday prayers leader and say their prayers in complete sincerity—something which we have continuously witnessed in the course of the past few years—when the enemies of Islam look at these scenes they are filled with envy and anger. This is quite the opposite of what they spent a lot of money on.

The Islamic revolution took place and disrupted all their plans. Well, they try to fight back. They recruit a number of sell-out writers, a number of mercenaries, and a number of irreligious scholars—and irreligious scholars are more dangerous to Islam than anyone else. The court 'ulema who dine at the tables of the kings and irreligious leaders of the world are more dangerous than anything else. A scholar who does not possess a wakeful conscience, who lacks piety, is more harmful to the Islamic society than any enemy. In traditions it is said that such a scholar is more dangerous to the Muslims than a wolf to a flock of sheep. See what a wolf can do to a flock of sheep. The harm which can be done by such a scholar is more than that of a wolf. In the course of the eight years of war—and even in the 10, 11 years since the revolution we have seen what was done by such scholars.

When the Islamic revolution came, it foiled their conspiracies, thanks to the blessings of the name of Islam, the banner of Islam, the name of the noble prophet and thanks to the blessings of Unity Week. Today is the first day of Unity Week. [passage omitted] If the global unity of Islam were realized, it would form such a strong fortress that no other power would be capable of violating the sanctuary of the Islamic states and nations.

See the fate of Muslim countries today. Look at the hunger, poverty, political weakness, ignorance, backwardness, and the political and economic subservience in these countries. Why is it like this? What were they short of? Were they short of natural resource? No. Were they short of manpower? No. Did they have any difficulty because of their geographical location? No. Why are they having such a tragic fate then? It is because the enemies took advantage of the people's complacency and the treachery of the leaders to launch a cultural and psychological attack, side by side with their economic and military onslaught. They gradually pushed back the Islamic countries to the fate that you can see now.

This is not a natural phase of the Islamic world. The world of Islam means from North Africa to the farthest part of the Far East. The Muslim inhabited parts of the world beginning from the west of Africa to the east of Asia. This area covers the most sensitive regions of the world. One part is the Persian Gulf. The entire world has lined up for its resources. The whole world needs this region's oil. If the Muslims of the world unite, the world of Islam would benefit greatly.

Those who chant the slogan of Muslim unity and fraternity are not the enemies of Muslims. They are the friends of Muslims. They have Muslims' interests in mind. They want to see all Muslims of the world prosper. What is the point of Muslims in an Islamic society from different sects confronting each other and inflicting blows on each other? Then the enemy comes from the other side to encircle both of them and kick their heads together. Then he stands aside, watches, and exploits the situation. Is this good?

If we say the Shiites and Sunnis should stand beside each other, while the Shiites remain Shiites and the Sunnis remain Sunnis...[changes thought] When did we ever ask the Sunnis to become Shiites? We have never said such a thing. If anyone wants to become a Shiite, they should go through scientific and logical discussions. They are free to go and get on with their work. We are not saying: You change your religion. We say: The Shiite and Sunni should always be sensible, as it was observed during the Islamic revolution in our country, praise be to God. They should not give the enemy a chance to exploit their division. This is the objective behind naming a week Unity Week.

O you the pen-holder, who are writing something, even if you have pure emotions, your belief and your faith orders you to write this or that article against your opposing faction. You must be aware what the consequences of writing such an article will be. You should know who exploits the situation when you create anger, hostility, and discord. It [the exploiting party] is the one who is against the essence of Islam.

There are one billion human beings in the world who share the same belief in God, the Prophet, prayers, the hajj and Ka'ba, the Koran and many religious instructions. They differ only on a few points. Is it wise to magnify the same few differences to fight against one another, while the side which is against the essence of this God, the Prophet, the religion and everything else, exploits the situation? This is what the Islamic Republic has been striving for during the past 11 or 12 years. And this vigilant and aware nation has been pursuing it. Other nations should pay attention too.

We said that a group of 'ulema and scholars should sit around and set up an institution at the scientific and cultural level to bring these sects closer. Within the Sunni sect there are four subsects, including the Imamiyah, Zaydiyah and other Islamic subsects. We asked them to sit together to see how far they can go in their work and cooperate on religious issues. We have set up such an institution. God willing, those brothers who have been appointed and are responsible for this task will pursue the work with all their efforts. It is a work which pleases Almighty God and the destiny of Islam depends on such works.

If Muslims join hands and become sincere with one another, even if their ideas differ, if they do not become a tool in the enemy's hand, then the world of Islam will raise its head. If that were to happen, would the United States and others dare come to the Islamic world and turn the place into their base and threaten the interests of the Islamic states and the Muslim nations?

This is the first issue. The second issue is about the elections for the Assembly of Experts. Anyone who has listened to or read the remarks of our opponents in the world knows that the enemies of the Islamic Republic are uncomfortable in the depths of their hearts about the present glory of the Islamic Republic. The victory of the Islamic nation has left a bitter taste in their mouths. God Almighty does everything on a wise basis.

One day a pure servant of God [Khomeyni]—that great and sincere human being who did not desire anything for himself, who did everything for the sake of God, whose only wish was God's pleasure—on the issue of the resolution [598] said: I have drunk the cup of poison. He endured that bitterness; he drank the cup of poison. God almighty rewarded that pure servant. Only two years and a bit has passed since that time, and God has enabled his nation to taste the sweet and pleasant taste of victory. That sacrifice resulted in this outcome. Our nation experienced the sweet and pleasant taste of victory. That sacrifice resulted in this outcome. Our nation experienced the sweet taste. [passage omitted]

Our freemen [released POW's] returned. Our families were made happy. The conditions of the Islamic Republic were accepted. The government and the leaders of the Islamic Republic reaped the results of their efforts. What came to pass was sweet to the Iranian nation, to the friends of the Iranian nation, and the friends of the revolution. However, it was bitter to our enemies.

Who are the enemies? They are the Zionists, the same people who control the news agencies, who control most of the radios of the world. They are looking for something so that they can diminish this victory, so that they can turn this power and strength of the Iranian nation into weakness, so that they can say in the world that the Iranian nation is not as strong as you imagine, that the Iranian nation is weak, that the Iranian nation does not possess a firm resolve, that the Iranian nation is not steadfast on its path. We are doing our own work. This great nation is following its work and continuing its path, but the enemy is saying those things abroad. They are looking for an excuse and an example.

They have fixed their gaze on the elections of the [Assembly of] Experts which will take place in a few days' time. Now they have started murmuring so that if the people do not approach the elections with enthusiasm, they can engage in propaganda on that basis and can say that the nation is wavering in its aspirations and views. So then with their propaganda they can destroy the strength and firmness of the revolution. They have engaged in different types of propaganda. If a person has said something out of anger, due to ignorance, or due to any other motivation, you see that they magnify his remarks throughout the world, they publish it, and it passes from mouth to mouth. They say that there is disunity in Iran, that this group is working against that group. This is their intention to distort the features of the Islamic Republic and change its victorious and powerful features. This is their intention.

I say that in the elections, which will be held on Monday, the Iranian nation should deliver a mighty blow on the mouth of all its ill-wishers throughout the world, and it will do so. [crowd chants slogans] You should act in a way that will make the enemy despair, as always in the past. You should regard participation in the elections of the Experts obligatory, such as a religious duty. All members of society who are entitled should take part in these elections. Then the enemy will know that as the result of the blessing of possessing these young people, as the result of the blessing of this nation, as the result of the blessings which God almighty has bestowed upon us, the Islamic Republic is still standing firm and strong. This should be proved in practice, and here is the chance.

I want to make a few brief points regarding these elections. Do not let the enemies and those who through ignorance and naivete become their tools and engage in spreading rumors. The facts are clear. The Assembly of Experts passed a resolution and made the Council of Guardians responsible [for approving the credential of the candidates] Thus the Council of Guardians acted in accordance with its duties. No blame and no criticism can be directed against the esteemed Council of Guardians on these issues.

The Council of Guardians is an organization which has been chosen by our constitution as a means for guaranteeing the legitimacy of this system. Were it not for this organization, the Council of Guardians, or if it did not exist, or if it were weakened, or if it did not perform its duties, the Islamic movement of this system would be jeopardized. I would be subjected to questioning because the movement of the system is on the basis of laws. Is it not so? If the laws are Islamic, the system will be Islamic. Who is there to say if the laws are Islamic or not? It is the Council of Guardians.

The men who are now members of the Council of Guardians are the same men who were appointed by the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise. The imam appointed them. When their term was over, he reaffirmed them. We also confirmed them. They are of outstanding and acceptable character. If people go here or there and criticize the Council of Guardians, it is an offense.

Let me tell you this. Those people should also know this. We cannot sit and watch while the most official, trustworthy, and authoritative organization in the system of the Islamic Republic is insulted because someone is angry, whether rightly or wrongly. What certain individuals, who made use of certain tribunes and reviled the Council of Guardians—if this is repeated on the basis of my responsibility I will not tolerate it. [crowd chants slogans including: Death to the opponents of velayat-e faqih—the supreme jurisconsult]

If any one of the country's legal organs is subjected to attacks by some people, it is my duty to defend that legal organ; any organ, not just this one, which we may say is almost a sacred organ. It is sacred because it has been founded on the basis of piety. The person who is placed there must be a motjahed [authority on Islamic law] and a just person. Well, is the imam's testimony to the effect that a certain person is qualified as a motjahed and is a just person not sufficient? When the imam places somebody there it means that he is a motjahed and a just person.

The point is that, regarding that case, the Council of Guardians performed its task, and it did so in a correct manner. That is, it did its duty. However, there are a number of small points to which attention must be paid. They [the theologians of the Council] told some of the honorable ulema: Well, gentlemen, we do not know whether you qualify as motjaheds or not. That is because the condition for standing as a candidate in these elections [Assembly of Experts] is for the candidate to qualify as a motjahed. The Council of Guardians tells them that they do not know whether the candidates qualify as motjaheds or not, and so asks them to sit and examination. Well, the gentleman belongs to the rank of ulema. He is an honorable man. He may well belong to the same year of study as the gentlemen of the Council of Guardians. So he says: No, I am not going to sit an examination. He too is right. If he decides not to sit the examination, nobody can tell him why he did so. Well, he does not want to sit the exams.

Nobody has the right to say that since he did not sit the exam he is therefore a bad person. No. It is not compulsory to sit that exam. He says: I will not sit the exam and I do not stnd as a candidate. [passage omitted]

Refusal to sit an exam is not a reason for [not] being a motjahed. No, well. They have not sat exams, but their value remains as it was. I feel it my duty to pray to God for the good health and long life of some of these individuals who did not sit the exam. They have such status; now if they are not members of the Assembly of Experts it hardly matters. And nobody has any right to offend them.

Then some individuals meanwhile did sit the examinations. But the Council of Guardians—that is the members of the examination board of the Council of Guardians who are high-ranking ulema in Qom and who carried out the task of examining the candidates—said that they [who sat the exam but failed] did not qualify as motjaheds. Well, let it be so. Not qualifying as a motjahed is not an excuse to weaken a person. There are many major posts in this country whose status, if not higher, is certainly not lower than that of membership of the Assembly of Experts. And yet, to attain it one does not have to qualify as a motjahed. Well, there are so many major and basic jobs in the country, such as executive jobs, ministerial positions, and heading various departments. The condition is not qualification as a motjahed. For that specific task—to be a member of Experts—the gentlemen decreed that qualification as a motjahed was necessary; that was because of the peculiar nature of the task and the gentlemen were right to set that qualification. [passage omitted]

Today, the president of our Republic, in my view, is definitely himself a motjahed—I have known him for many years. It is God's blessing proferred on us in that we have a president for our republic who is a motjahed, who is qualified to teach in the seminary, and who is also a highly valued thinker in Islamic thoughts. He has a very rich background. That being so, did anybody ask him whether he was a motjahed when he wanted to become president of the Republic? Did anybody think of him being a motjahed or not? Indeed, did the people remember he was a motjahed or not? The presidency of the Republic is a very high position; the administrtion of hte country is in the hands of a person who is in fct a motjahed, but nobody can remember whether the president is a motjahed or not. It is not wrong not to be a motjahed. Previously, we had presidents of the republic who were not motjaheds. The late martyr Raja'i—may his soul be in God's paradise. After the provisional government we have had very good and serving and caring prime ministers; but they were not motjaheds. Some of them of course were like martyr Bahonar.

Therefore, to be a motjahed or not matters only if one wants to be a member of the Assembly of Experts. It does not matter if that person is a revolutionary or a responsible person. [passage omitted]

Therefore, anybody who is a motjahed but did not sit for exams retains his status. Also, anyone who did sit for exams but were not [recognized] as a mujthadid, retains his honor. Similarly, the Council of Guardians that has acted according to regulations retains its honor. It has performed its duty which it must. There must be no problem here.

Now some individuals here and there say that if the imam [Khomeyni] would have been with us, he would exercise influence in such and such case. But I personally do not like to engage in conversation on such matters. But, in the way of reminder, I say that, if the imam today was with us, rest assured he would not have consented to the breaking of law, that too on a major scale.

Our exalted imam, in the last days of his honorable life, wrote a letter which remains one of his legacies. It remains in the minds of many people. According to it the non-legal organs, which were set up on his own instructions because of the exigency of time, were brought under doubt. These include the Expediency Discernment Council and so forth. He said these were set up during the war period when we were forced to do something outside the law. One of the imam's characteristics was to be bound to law. We too do what is our loyalty to law. We do not agree to [this state of affairs] in which anybody may feel at liberty to come to attribute some statement to the imam. Yet, they do not know the imam's methods; they do not know what was the imam's motivation [in making a statement]. Only the people who were enlightened, who are experts, and who are among his circle can know his motivation. It is not left to anyone else to some to say that if the imam has lived he would do so; or if he would be with us today he would say so. That is the right path on which I recommend everyone to tread.

Take care. Be on guard, at a time when we invite all the Muslims for unity lest the enemy sows seeds of discord among the ranks of the Islamic Republic itself. The condition for victory is for the different factions to maintain respect for each other. In the Islamic Republic we have the election to choose the best; we do not have electioneering competition. Such competitions belong to Western type democracies, which have nothing to do with God and faith. [repetitive passage omitted] May God empower us to understand these things. It is mandatory to us to maintain respect for the Islamic revolution and to maintain unity. Otherwise, it would not be tolerable to the people, the youth, and those who feel responsibility.

Rafsanjani Supports Council

LD0410025990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The cabinet held a session Wednesday afternoon. [passage omitted]

In that meeting, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, referring to the significant remarks of the leader [Khamene'i] on Wednesday morning, said: We are on the first day of Unity Week. After the revolution we raised the ideal pertaining to the unity for the world of Islam and fortunately we demonstrated our intentions very well in that regard, and we see now that the Islamic countries have accepted our sincerity and consider it the basis for unity.

Also recently, the honorable leader of the revolution has raised the issue pertaining to the approximation of various Islamic sects which is a definite and practical step toward continuation of that path. We hope for success for our path in that regard, both for the people and all those who suffer from discord in the world of Islam. But unfortunately, in conditions when we are beginning Unity Week, inside the country some arguments have been observed. I hope such arguments come to an end following the remarks by the honorable leader of the revolution on Wednesday. Indeed we should not have such arguments, in particular at a time when we are approaching the elections [of the Experts Assembly] and Unity Week. In conditions when we are celebrating our victory and our nation is rejoicing and cheerful and feels proud, our enemies want some discussions and disputes in the country in order to take away the sweetness of such victories and successes from us. But, God willing, we will disappoint them through our vigilance.

Fortunately, the honorable leader cleared the issues and mentioned the last word. Surely that word settles the affair and stops the disputes. When we see some people with whose ideological, revolutionary, or past experience we agree and who have not been accepted as candidates for the elections, we are indeed moved. We are seriously moved and indeed do not want such a thing to happen, but it has happened. But we should not translate that in such a way that results in the Guardians Council being called the guilty partner. The Guardians Council, to be fair, has dealt with the case from a legal position, and no weakening assessments can be attributed to the Guardians Council, or that, God forbid, they have been negligent or acted according to a particular line [khati barkhord karde ya kutahi karde and]. The law approved by the Experts [mosavabe-ye khobregan ham] also, contrary to some remarks which have been made, is a respectable approval, and it was the right of the Experts, and they have made a legal move. Of course, as I mentioned, we are touched about the case regarding a number of our friends, but according to the rules we should show self-sacrifice and accept the issue. It is not right for us to criticize and create disputes about what has been arranged according to the constitutional standards, and also after the person enforcing the law has implemented it correctly. That action is undesirable and incorrect even if done with good intentions. That is, they think that the best thing to do was different from what has been done, then they come and make disputes and create problems, in particular when the [other] side is the Guardians Council.

The Guardians Council is the legitimate source of our laws. That is, if people submit to the law and accept it and give their lives and wealth for it, it is because they recognize the law as lawful [qanun ra shar'i midanand] and its lawfulness is [decided] in the Guardians Council. No person benefits from doubting the work of the Guardians Council; we all are dutybound to safeguard the sacredness of the Guardians Council. The scholars of the Guardians Council are persons that the imam chose as just jurisconsults, which is a condition set in the Constitution, and the honorable leader of the revolution [Khamene'i] also approved them. We cannot say that they are not just or they are spiteful or have acted on the basis of a particular line [ya moghrez budeh, ya khati amal karde and]. Those are not correct issues. I bear witness to the fact that the issue was also a bitter one for the Guardians Council; during the days when assessmets [of candidates] were being made, I had two or three contacts with them, and witnessed that the case was also a bitter one for them. When one candidate was rejected, they were really touched. They were saying we also do not want such a thing to take place, but the law forces us to do so. What can we do? Our findings are so.

I think now we should decide on a number of issues and act in a way that all our works are coordinated. First of all, about the persons who have not sat the tests, or have sat the tests and have failed them, we should pay attention to the fact that whatever positions they held in the past, now also they hold the same amount of respect as in the past. If the person is a Friday prayer imam or has an official post or is a [Majles] deputy, indeed nothing, not a bit, has been reduced from his personality. We should not worry, or no one should think that those dear persons' personalities have been damaged or their ranks reduced. Who wants such good persons to become isolated? Definitely, such an issues is not in the mind of the honorable leader or in the mind of the Guardians Council, and no other person thinks so.

Another point is that we should stress the legitimacy of the position of the Guardians Council. Another issue is that the people should not become discouraged. They should be encouraged to actively participate in the elections of the Experts Assembly. I am confident that even the people who are touched will sincerely not be pleased to see someone disregarding the system and the interests of the country. No one from the two sides wants such a case. Therefore, all must ensure that elections are implemented warmly and orderly.

The gentlemen who were not accepted or did not sit the tests should also devotedly announce that even though we saw it our right [to be elected], but as the case has been dealt with from a legal point of view, then we agree with it. That indeed is the right of the Guardians Council, to announce its opinion. If we do that, then the issue will regain its solidness, in particular since the honorable leader has underlined the duty in a clear and obvious way, and I sincerely praise his wise remarks.

The cabinet and those cooperating with it also consider it their duty to obey his orders, and I hope that the people will take part, solidly, in the elections of the Experts Assembly.

Groups Praise Khamene'i Remarks on Guardians

Armed Forces Renew Allegiance

LD0310191390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Following the speech by Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, about the correctness of the stance of the Council of Guardians and his eminence's emphasis that participation in the elections for the second round of the Assembly of Experts is a religious duty of all of the people, the armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has issued a statement announcing that the armed wing of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran renews allegiance to the Guardian of the Cause of Muslims and the commander in chief of the armed forces [Ayatollah Khamene'i]. The statement further announced that the armed forces will obey the orders of the honorable leader, calling the participation in the elections for the Assembly of Experts a religious duty and calling the Council of Guardians the guarantor of the strengthening of the system. The Armed Forces, refraining from any political emotions and with full consent, alongside the masses of the people, will participate wholeheartedly in these elections.

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

LD0310192590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Following today's speech by the leader of the Islamic revolution concerning the elections for the second term of the Assembly of Experts, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps has sent a message to the esteemed Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and announced its complete obedience to the orders of the guardian of the cause of Muslims.

This message states: Honorable leader, your guards children regard obedience to the Supreme Jurisconsult as following the Prophet of God and the immaculate imams, peace be upon them. The guardianship and protection of the achievements of the Islamic revolution and its holy organs has been written across their hearts and is blended with their blood. Ten years of holy defense against all the satanic forces is proof of this. From the sinews of our hearts, we have sworn allegiance to the divine call of the guardian of the cause of the Muslims and alongside the vociferous tumultuous flood of the Muslimn ummah, who have proven their maturity and alertness on countless occasions, we will participate wholeheartedly in the elections for the Assembly of Experts. We will carry out our religious duty and will turn the dreams of the enemies of the Islamic revolution into a monstrous nightmare.

IPO Announces Support

NC0410073990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] The Islamic Propagation Organization [IPO] issued a message on its complete support of the remarks the day before by the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution and the measures taken by the Council of Guardians. It called for the people to participate in unity in the Council of Experts' elections.

In this message, it was mentioned that the Council of Guardians—in accordance with the exhortations of the eminent status of the leadership—is a means for guaranteeing the rightfulness of the system, and added: The IPO, while extending its consistent support for the enlightened, imam-like utterances of the aware and magnificent leader of the Islamic revolution, and of the decisions of the Council of Experts, and the categorical measures taken by the Council of Guardians, calls on the victorious and resistant nation, to participate actively as it did in the past in the Council of Experts' elections, to continue to follow the lofty leadership, and to walk the path of the late imam.

Qom Seminarians Agree

NC0410115190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Following the most important utterances by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, the Qom seminarians Association issued a statement on the wide support for his utterances and condemned all efforts to weaken the Council of Guardians.

This statement stressed that the Qom seminarians association considers following the guidance of the vali-ye amr-e Muslimin [guardian of the Muslims' cause] its religious obligation. The association members will participate in the Council of Experts elections along with all sections of society and will thus reaffirm its obedience to the position of the velayat [jurisconsult].

The statement added: Now that the Muslim Iranian nation is on the threshold of the fateful elections of the experts of the leadership, the association declares its categorical support of the sagacious and imam-like remarks of the eminent status of the Leadership, which resemble the remarks of our great leader, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni. We denounce all kinds of weakening of the hallowed organization of the Council of Guardians, the great jurisconsults devoted to the imam and the lofty position of the leadership.

Editorial Criticizes Abuse of Experts Elections

LD0310113390 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA—A morning daily Wednesday [3 October] regretted irresponsible attitude of some newspapers concerning the forthcoming elections of the Experts Assembly scheduled for October 8. JOMHURIY-YE ESLAMI in its editorial this morning underlined importance of unity and stressed that the main danger threatening unity of the society is the "poisonous propaganda".

The paper said that at present juncture unity was essential for the Islamic revolution and described those acting against it as disasters. The Guardians Council has taken certain measures concerning the Experts Assembly which has met with different reactions, the paper said. It criticized those who are abusing the opportunity in order to outmaneuver and defame their opponents. "This can never be tolerated," wrote the daily.

"It is not right to label people and accuse the opponents. This improper attitude must change," noted the editorial.

At present the Islamic Revolution has many foes around the world whose common objective is annihilation of the revolution, said the daily adding that if they are showing a friendly face to Iran "obviously it cannot be motivated by good intentions."

It concluded by saying that under the status quo it is neither to the interest of Islam and the Islamic revolution nor advisable to the revolutionary forces [to] neglect unity.

Velayati Returns From UN Meetings 3 Oct

LD0310103390 Tehran IRNA in English 0556 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned home from New York Wednesday morning after attending the 45th annual session of the U.N. General Assembly.

While in New York Velayati held talks with many world politicians who were in the U.N. Headquarters for the occasion.

In a meeting with foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council held in Iran's U.N. office, Velayati outlined the Islamic Republic's stand on the regional issues and the Persian Gulf crisis.

Rules Out Gulf Military Involvement

LD0310144190 Tehran IRNA in English 1333 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 3 (IRNA)—The Islamic Republic favors a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis and believes Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait, Foreign

Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Wednesday upon his return from the 45th U.N. General Assembly meet in New York.

"Use of force should be the last-ditch effort to solve the crisis and in that case Iran would in no way contribute to such an effort," Velayati told a press conference here. The foreign minister said he had reiterated both at the General Assembly and in his talks with the delegates from the Persian Gulf littoral states that only cooperation among the regional states would maintain security in the region.

He said Iran's diplomatic ties with Britain, Mauritania and Tunisia were resumed following meetings in New York between the Iranian officials and the foreign ministers of the three countries. "The resumption of ties with Britain has taken place without any conditions and we would never accept any pre-conditions for renewal of these ties," he said.

The Islamic Republic severed ties with Britain in February 1988 after a one week ultimatum given by the Majles (parliament) to London to discontinue supporting Salman Rushdie, the author of the blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses".

The Indian-born British author has been in hiding since the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, decreed a death sentence on him for blaspheming Islam and Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) in his novel.

Velayati said that the resumption of Tehran-London relations came after a decision taken by Iran's Supreme National Defence Council which believed the steps taken by Britain towards meeting the conditions laid down by the Majles were sufficient. Earlier, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in a letter to the parliament expressed his country's deep respect for Islam and Muslims.

On Roger Cooper, a British national jailed here on espionage charges, Velayati said "The Cooper issue has nothing to do with Iran's foreign policy and the judiciary is responsible for investigating his case." Velayati said he had conveyed Iran's deep concern over the fate of Mehrdad Kokabi, an Iranian student jailed in Britain, to British officials, calling for his release.

He also ruled out the possibility of resumption of Tehran-Cairo ties, saying "Egypt can have no relations with us because of his commitment to the Camp David accord." Asked about the future of the Third World with regards to the German unification and collapse of Marxism, Velayati replied "It is only through constructive efforts that Third World countries can narrow the gap with the wealthy world."

Comments on UN Achievements

LD0310184590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, after returning from New York, took part in a news conference and described the achievements of the 45th UN General Assembly session. The foreign minister said that some of the issues discussed at the 45th UN General Assembly session included the understanding achieved by the two superpowers; the collapse of the Marxist system; the preparations made for the unity of the two Germanies; the unification of Europe; a solution to the issues with regard to Central America; the achievement of understanding on solving the Cambodian issue; the closer relationship between the two superpowers; mutual understanding with regard to the issue of Afghanistan; the acceptance of the 1975 agreement by Iraq; the withdrawal of Iraqi forces to recognized international borders; and the escalation of tension in the very sensitive Persian Gulf zone.

Regarding the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the UN session, the minister of foreign affairs said:

[Begin Velayati recording] In view of the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran has a key position in this sensitive region of the Persian Gulf, it was the center of attention for the whole world. Therefore, all were anxious to learn about Iran's clear position. Earlier, there had been some doubts, and some news media and suspicious Western circles engaged in hostile propaganda. Therefore, it was necessary for us to clearly speak about our positions in such a world forum. The live worldwide broadcasting by CNN, I mean the live broadcasting of my speech at the general session by CNN, was a broadcast throughout the world [sentence as heard].

Many requests were received from the leaders and foreign ministers of various countries for meetings. There were also many requests for press, radio, and television interviews. All these showed that throughout the world there is intense interest and a desire to learn of the positions of the Islamic Republic with regard to the crisis in the Persian Gulf. The positions of the Islamic Republic were clarified. Reports were broadcast and you are aware of them. If we wish to refer to some of the points which were of greater interest to news media during the visit of the Iranian delegation to New York, a brief list of those would be: meetings with the troika—namely the three foreign ministers of Italy, Ireland, and Luxembourg—with the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran; meetings of the foreign ministers of the southern states of the Persian Gulf, of the six foreign ministers, together with the GCC secretary general, with me in the mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the resumption of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tunisia, England, and Mauritania was another issue of interest; as well as the talks we had with the leaders of important and major countries such as the German president and the Italian prime minister. These were other points of interest.

In any case, I believe that the opportunity which was provided was a suitable opportunity for us to be able to correctly elucidate the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the world—especially in connection with the crisis in the Persian Gulf—namely, that we are against the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq; and we are against the presence of foreign forces in this sensitive area under the pretext of solving the Persian Gulf crisis. We also believe that the problem of the Persian Gulf should be solved by the countries of the region. Finally, we emphasized the point that we strongly prefer a peaceful solution, without resorting to war, to any other solution. [end recording]

Agricultural Cooperation Discussed With Turkey

NC0410131890 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] During the talks they held in Tehran this morning, the visiting minister of industry of Turkey and the Iranian minister of agriculture stressed the need for developing relations between Iran and Turkey. The talks they held centered on the development of agricultural relations and the establishment of cooperation in the sugar beet industry, the production of agricultural equipment, the sale of agricultural products, and the improvement of agricultural lands and irrigation systems.

Majles Deputy Urges Muslims Worldwide To Unite

LD0310173490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] In this morning's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles, chaired by Majles Deputy Speaker Hashemian, the deputy speaker congratulated Muslims worldwide, especially Muslim compatriots, on the blessed occasion of the birth of His Holiness the Last Prophet His Holiness Mohammad bin-Abdullah, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him and his descendant, and on the start of the unity week, saying:

Arrogance and imperialism continue to benefit from disunity among the Muslims, and by policies that sow the seeds of disunity, they try to protect their interests. He said: If, today, the 1 billion Muslims were united, Israel could never invade their home, and the oppressors of the world could not rule the destiny of the Muslims and plunder their wealth.

Continuing his speech, Hashemian pointed to the anniversary of the migration of his eminence imam [Khomeyni], may his soul be admitted to God's paradise, from Iraq to Paris and further pointed to the effects of this move and said: The Imam always emphacized three points: reliance upon the people, denying power to the carefree wealthy, and keeping unity.

In this session, the generalities of the bill on the employment of local staff at missions abroad was discussed, and the vote was postponed to the next session.

Also in this session, the bill with double urgency on setting the number of candidates in elections, with the presence of the members of the Council of Guardians, was discussed and the discusions were postponed to 7 October.

Radio Reports Extension of UNIIMOG Mission

LD2709220790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] The United Nations Security Council has extended the mission of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG] from 29 September for two months.

On Thursday afternoon the Security Council approved resolution 671 and agreed to the proposal of the secretary general on extension of the UNIIMOG mission up to 30 November. The resolution asked the UN secretary general to submit to the Security Council in November a report on the latest developments and on his discussions with the two sides on the future of those forces as well as the views of the two countries on this topic. In a report to the Council at the beginning of this week, the secretary general requested the extension of the UNIIMOG mission for the next two months.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Ministry Reports Troops Fired on Villagers

BK0310005890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1816 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 2 (AFP)—Royal Nepalese soldiers opened fire on villagers over the weekend, killing at least two and wounding 13, a Home Ministry spokesman said here Tuesday. The spokesman said the 12 soldiers opened fire in the northwestern district of Jumla Saturday when they got into a row with local villagers at a local fair marking the annual Hindu "Druga Puja" festival.

The spokesman confirmed that two died and that two of the 13 injured were soldiers. The soldiers had to resort to their weapons to defend themselves, he said. .

A local political source quoted witnesses as saying a brawl broke out when the soldiers, under the influence of alcohol, molested village women celebrating the festival. The Home Ministry spokesman acknowledged that the soldiers "teased" the women.

The political source said the villagers attacked two soldiers with knives as the other troopers fled and later returned with weapons. The soldiers then "started shooting at the unarmed crowd," killing an unconfirmed number of villagers, the political source said. Four of those injured were flown to Kathmandu by helicopter for treatement Sunday, the spokesman added.

A team headed by a brigadier general was sent to the region Monday to investigate the incident, the spokesman said. The ministry spokesman said the situation had returned to normal, but the party source said the villagers were very angry because a newly wed bridegroom was among those killed.

Bhutan

Militias Formed To Combat Pro-Democracy Unrest

BK0310160690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1546 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 3 (AFP)—The tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan has begun forming citizens' militias to combat unrest in parts of the country blamed on pro-democracy demonstrators, its embassy here said Wednesday. The Royal Bhutanese Embassy said in a statement that more than 1,000 citizens had already volunteered to join the militia groups, and that Bhutan's miniscule army would initially train 500 of them.

The statement followed reports of clashes between security forces and protesters in southern Bhutan, and charges of killings by forces. The Bhutanese Government has denied the accusations. The embassy said the militias would be trained "so that they can help guard public property and important installations and enable the army personnel to be withdrawn from civilian areas as soon as possible."

It added that an overwhelming number of people, including students and women, had volunteered to join the militias and that recruits were being sought only from those "in government service or living in urban areas." The statement said after training, the militias would assist the local police which is "badly under strength and totally inexperienced in dealing with mob attacks."

Bhutan borders Nepal, as well as China and India, and the kingdom's army and police do not number more than 6,000. The Bhutanese dissidents are people of Nepalese descent who allege discrimination in Bhutan. Wednesday's embassy statement blamed "the recent disturbances and state of lawlessness" on "subversive elements".

Pakistan

Jatoi Urges Votes for Pro-Islam Candidates

BK0410085490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has made a fervent appeal to the nation to shun ethnic, parochial and provincial feelings and prejudices so as to make a true edifice of Islam. He was speaking at the concluding session of the 14th national conference on the Prophet's life at the Faisal Mosque in Islamabad last night. He reminded those present that the feelings based on ethnic and parochial sentiments were in contravention to the basic Islamic teachings which aim at keeping Muslims away from all kinds of nefarious tendencies and falsehoods. He regretted that unfortunately our society is presently confronted with un-Islamic traits of parochialism and provincialism which only breed hatred and violence. He urged the people to remain steadfast to the Islamic teachings and wage a struggle against such un-Islamic and nefarious tendencies. The prime minister said Islam alone was our identity and nothing else. He asserted that for Pakistanis it was obligatory to promote feelings of unity, tolerance, love, and affection as the noble concept of Islam.

The prime minister said it was imperative for us to constantly keep an eye on the objectives behind the creation of Pakistan which was nothing but seeking the glory of Islam. He urged the youth to emulate glorious teachings of the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, and attain a high standard of learning and proficiency in different fields of science and technology.

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi appealed to the workers to vote for only such candidates who remained committed to Islam and Pakistan and who had an unblemished record of service to the masses.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, Religious Affairs Minister Mir Mohammad Nasir Mengal called upon the people to establish unity among their ranks on the basis of the teachings of the holy Koran. The concluding session of the conference was attended by religious scholars, senators, and notables, besides some envoys of the Muslim countries. Earlier, the prime minister unveiled a unique manuscript of the holy Koran weighing 1,600 kgs and concomprised of 406 different modes of writing in the spacious prayer hall of the Faisal Mosque. He offered prayers for speedy Islamization and for the unity and prosperity of Pakistan.

In a unanimously passed resolution, the participants of the conference appealed to vote for such leadership in the coming general elections which is committed to the enforcement of the Islamic system and maintaining unity and stability of Pakistan. The conference congratulated the president, the prime minister, and the federal shariat court for being instrumental in the enforcement of Islamic laws of qisas [victim or his heirs have the right to inflict the same injury on offenders] and diyat [blood money in case of murder]. They described it as a landmark toward the cause of enforcement of the Islamic order.

IMF, World Bank Aid Said Not Linked to Bhutto

BK0110160890 Lahore THE NATION in English 1 Oct 90 p 8

[Text] Islamabad—The aid to Pakistan is not linked with the future of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. This was stated by the Federal Minister of Finance, Senator Sartaj Aziz while replying to a question whether the donor agencies are pressurising Pakistan in this regard.

The Minister was addressing a Press conference here on Sunday afternoon after his return from attending the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of IMF and the World Bank.

The prevailing situation in Pakistan because of Gulf crisis he said, is considered sympathetically by the U.S. government and a team from the United States will visit Pakistan to see the holding of fair and free elections. Referring to the process of accountability, he said that he had apprised an American team during their visit to Pakistan that it was for the first time that the elected representatives were being brought to trial for their doings.

Bhutto Accuses Khan of Creating 'Crisis'

BK0110055390 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 1 Oct 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The dismissed Pakistani prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has made her first appearance before a special court in Karachi, accused of abusing her power while in office. Speaking in a BBC interview afterwards she admitted to having made mistakes, but said President Ghulam Ishaq Khan was leading the country into crisis. Lyce Doucet reports from Karachi:

[Begin recording] [Doucet] When President Ghulam Ishaq Khan addressed the nation in August, he accused Ms. Bhutto's government of leading the country to ruin, of plundering the nation's wealth, and widening the gulf between ethnic and social groups. But Ms. Bhutto has hit back, charging him of plunging Pakistan into a crisis which will be difficult to overcome.

[Bhutto] The political polarization that has come about with the president of the country acting as the head of a political party has also inflicted wounds upon the body politic which will take time to heal. I always said that democracy is the only solution, and if there are problems in a democratic system it means more democracy, not less.

[Doucet] This acrimony makes it hard to imagine Ms. Bhutto and Mr. Khan ever sharing the helm of state again. The president has said he is ready to work with whatever party comes to power, but Ms. Bhutto accused him of trying to disqualify her by hook or by crook from this month's poll.

Asked about the army chief of staff, General Aslam Beg's statement that they would use all measures to ensure elections were free and fair, Ms. Bhutto said these views were laudable. She added there could be no such polls unless there was an end to what she called persecution by the special tribunals which have summoned her and some of her former ministers on corruption charges, and the replacement of the interim government by a neutral body. Ms. Bhutto seemed unrepentant about most of her government's policies. She admitted they had made some mistakes, but she still threw most of the blame on her opponents, saying that there was a campaign to overthrow her from the day she took power in December 1988. Her biggest mistake, she said, was to support Ghulam Ishaq Khan for president—a man she she accused of planning her downfall for the last year.

Asked if a stable government could emerge after the bitter accusations between different parties, Ms. Bhutto said there could only be stability if the people's verdict was accepted, maintaining that parliament could have been maintained, and any charges dealt with in normal courts. But her opponents would say the problems had become so grave they required exceptional measures provided by the constitution. [end recording]

Gulf Crisis Threatens To Cause Large Deficit

BK0210132490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1135 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Karachi, Oct 2 (AFP)—The Gulf crisis threatens to leave Pakistan with a three billion dollar deficit for this fiscal year, almost double the level forecast by officials. Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait upset Pakistan's fragile economy this year as it must absorb an additional one billion dollars from higher oil prices and 500 million dollars in lost worker remittances and exports to Iraq and Kuwait, Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz said.

Exports of cotton and cotton products had promised to reduce the trade deficit from last year's level of 2.1 billion dollars to 1.6 billion dollars this year. Imports had been projected at seven billion dollars, while exports were to rise to 5.4 billion dollars this year from 4.6 billion dollars in the last fiscal year.

The caretaker government decided against increasing the price of oil before general elections on October 24 in a bid to contain inflation and maintain industrial growth. It also undertook a policy to boost the production and export of cotton, yarn, fabrics, readymade garments, and other cotton products like hosiery, towels, sheets and table cloths.

To increase the sale of such products abroad, the export policy has provided incentives for setting up export-oriented industries. Officials are encouraging the creation of 100 new textile and spinning units in addition to the 400 mills already in existence. Incentives for increased cotton exports are coming from procedural simplifications and institutional support such as export bank services, officials said.

Pakistan, the fifth biggest producer and third largest exporter of raw cotton, is predicting a record crop of nine million bales in fiscal 1991. The local textile industry would consume about seven million bales, leaving two million bales for export to countries like South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Thailand.

Officials said they estimate earnings from raw cotton exports to amount to 600 million dollars this year. Pakistan expects to earn 450 million dollars by exporting readymade garments, compared to 388 million dollars last year. The combined exports of raw cotton and cotton products would fetch 2.5 billion dollars, or nearly 43 per cent of the country's total exports, they added.

An international fashion apparel fair took place here last week in which some 60 leading Pakistani manufacturers and exporters were displayed. A Pakistani official said Pakistan was fast emerging as an exporter of quality textiles. Exports cover more than 40 items and are shipped to the United States, Soviet Union, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Japan and Australia.

There are more than 200 registered garment exporters in the country. But industry sources said Pakistan was still far behind giant exporters like South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and even the Philippines, Singapore and India. Global cotton production in 1989-90 was 113.2 million bales as against industrial consumption of 85 million bales, according to a government report.

Pakistan's share of the world garment trade was only one per cent last year, but it was among the world leaders in yarn exports, accounting for 22.3 per cent of global exports. Pakistan enjoyed a 10 per cent share of world trade in cotton cloth, putting it in third position.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Gulf Policy

BK0110154490 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Oct 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Time To Be Counted"]

[Text] The full implications of the US Administration's barely-concealed glee at what has at times been described in the recent past as the transformation of the United Nations to its originally conceived role of enforcing the global writ against erring nations, could be brought home to the world in the days ahead. There have of late been indications that Washington could soon attempt to convert its unilaterally orchestrated military presence and objectives in the Muslim Middle-East into an ostensibly universally-mandated operation. America is reportedly working on a formula to use the supposedly multinational forces led by it in and around the Arabian peninsula as an instrument of the global will as represented by the sanction of the United Nations. The US Administration's confidence to push through such a patently partisan use of the world body at this stage would be understandable. After all, notwithstanding the pretences of voting on the Security Council Resolution on Iraq since August 2, Washington has not so far had any difficulty in having its way with regard to all these intended moves. The hypocrisy of US attitude here has been phenomenal, to say the least. The Resolution adopted by the Security Council in the wee hours of the morning following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was a command performance at the unmistakable bidding of the only remaining superpower in the world. If the US was really serious in making use of the end of the cold war to restore to the UN its legitimate role in world affirs, here was a chance to do that by putting up a United Nations force to get the occupation of Kuwait vacated. But that was not quite the idea. It would have negated the very rationale of the drama in which, as a number of subsequent reports have maintained, the United States had not only overlooked the possibility of just such an action by Iraq against Kuwait but had, in fact, encouraged the fait accompli.

All that, however, is already history. What is not so yet is the ultimate price which the human race as such may have to pay for the raging US adventurism in the Middle East. The vast majority of nations represented in the United Nations do not, of course, have any meaningful role to play in the mandatory measures adopted by the exclusive club of the Security Council. However, it is about time that the handful of Third World nations represented in the Security Council for the time being realised the historic reponsibility that rests on their shoulders. Given the will, they can, acting in concert, frustrate the American design of acquiring the UN label for its policy of aggression in the Middle East. Along with that, the only one of the Big Five which not only has the necessary credentials to take a decisive position against the disastrous consequences of the US agenda for the Muslim Middle-East, but has also so far retained the option of sanity, albeit in a marginal sense, is the People's Republic of China. In this context, it is encouraging to note the Chinese Foreign Minister's reiteration of the need for restraint and peaceful negotiations to resolve the Gulf crisis, in the course of his addess to the General Assembly. Should the United States persist in getting its contemplated Resolution approved by the Security Council, the Third World in general and the Muslim countries in particular would expect Beijing to kill the deadly move by exercising its right to veto.

Sri Lanka

UN Asked To Help Dispatch Food Ship to Gulf

BK0310123790 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Harold Herath represented Sri Lanka at the world summit for children held at the United Nations Headquarters last Sunday. The gathering paid particular attention to the problems of the children of the Third World. The minister is also expected to discuss specific matters pertaining to Sri Lanka with the administrator of UNICEF, James Grant.

The minister also held a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Australia, Bangladesh, India, and other nations. He explained to them details of the prevailing situation in Sri Lanka and the measures taken by President Premadasa to combat terrorism and to settle the ethnic issue. He explained in detail the policies and programs of the Sri Lanka government aimed at the upliftment of the living conditions of the people in particular and poor sections through programs such as Janasaviya [poverty alleviation program]. The minister was assisted by the foreign secretary, Bernard Tilakaratna.

The discussions also centered on the difficulties encountered in regard to the repatriation of the several thousand Sri Lankans stranded in the Gulf. This was also explained to the president of the Security Council and the chairperson of the Sanctions Committee and several other members of the Security Council. The minister told them the special problems faced by Sri Lanka in regard to the repatriation of its nationals. He requested the assistance of the Security Council and the international community to dispatch a vessel to Kuwait to carry food to stranded Sri Lankans and thereafter to evacuate them from the Gulf region. It was pointed out that 90 percent of the Sri Lankan workers are women and therefore Sri Lanka's case should receive special attention.

Minister Harold Herath also visited the Buddhist temple in New York to convey his appreciation of its service to the Sri Lankan community in New York. He was expected to address the UN General Assembly yesterday.

Colombo Reports 'Gruesome' LTTE Killings

BK0310140190 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] During the last 48 hours ending at 1200 today, no major encounters have been reported between the security forces and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the northeast. Military sources confirmed that the methods employed in the killing of nine innocent civilians by LTTE terrorists, which included two females and one child, at the Peruwalatalawa Sinhala Village in Amparai and the killing of four innocent civilians, which included two females and one child, in (Wahakade) Sinhala Village in Vavuniya were the most gruesome and barbaric by any known standards.

In a number of cordon and search operations and ambushes, security forces succeeded in killing several terrorists and recovering arms and ammunition. In Palali and Kankesanturai, security forces had observed the digging of trenches and strengthening of defenses using an unusually large labor force.

Defense Ministry Discusses LTTE 'Human Shields'

BK0410103090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0659 GMT 4 Oct 90

["Oana/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 4 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—The Defense Ministry yesterday said that more than forcible conscription, the immediate threat faced by innocent civilians in the northern province is that they are being herded like cattle and taken to the operational areas to be used as human shields by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

In fact, it is understood that one of the chief reaasons for the recent pullout of the Security Forces from the Jaffna Fort area was to minimize such civilian casualties, the ministry release said. The release also made the following points:

Several Tamil political parties and groups are faced with the grim prospect of their trained military cadres being totally wiped out as they hve been forcibly enrolled by the LTTE terrorists uniformed, armed, and forced into the battle fronts as cannon fodder. The numbers so conscripted are said to be in the region of 7,000.

A number of Tamil youths, who recently escaped from concentration camps in the Jaffna Peninsula and survived the 90-mile treck on foot to Vavuniya, have related to the authorities the prevailing reign of repressions enforced by the LTTE terrorists. Tamil farmers, who have defied LTTE orders, are being chained into groups and taken as a work force for digging of trenches and construction of bunkers. Eyewitnesses have described large number of wailing women and children following these groups that are being taken away for forced labor.

Three heads of Sri Lanka missions abroad have reported that Sri Lankan expatriates will be setting up a human rights organization soon to protect and safeguard the rights of the Sinhala, Tamil, and Muslim people who are being systematically exterminated by the LTTE terrorists. This new organizations, while countering the disinformation campaign, will prvail upon human rights organizatons throught the world to roundly condemn the current wave of genocide by the LTTE terrorists.